

LETTERS

WRITTEN TO AN

OFFICER IN THE ARMY

ON

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND POLITICAL.

WITH A VIEW TO THE

MANNERS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS,

AND PROPER CONDUCT OF

YOUNG GENTLEMEN, &c.

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MINISTER OF STRETFORD.

V O L. II.

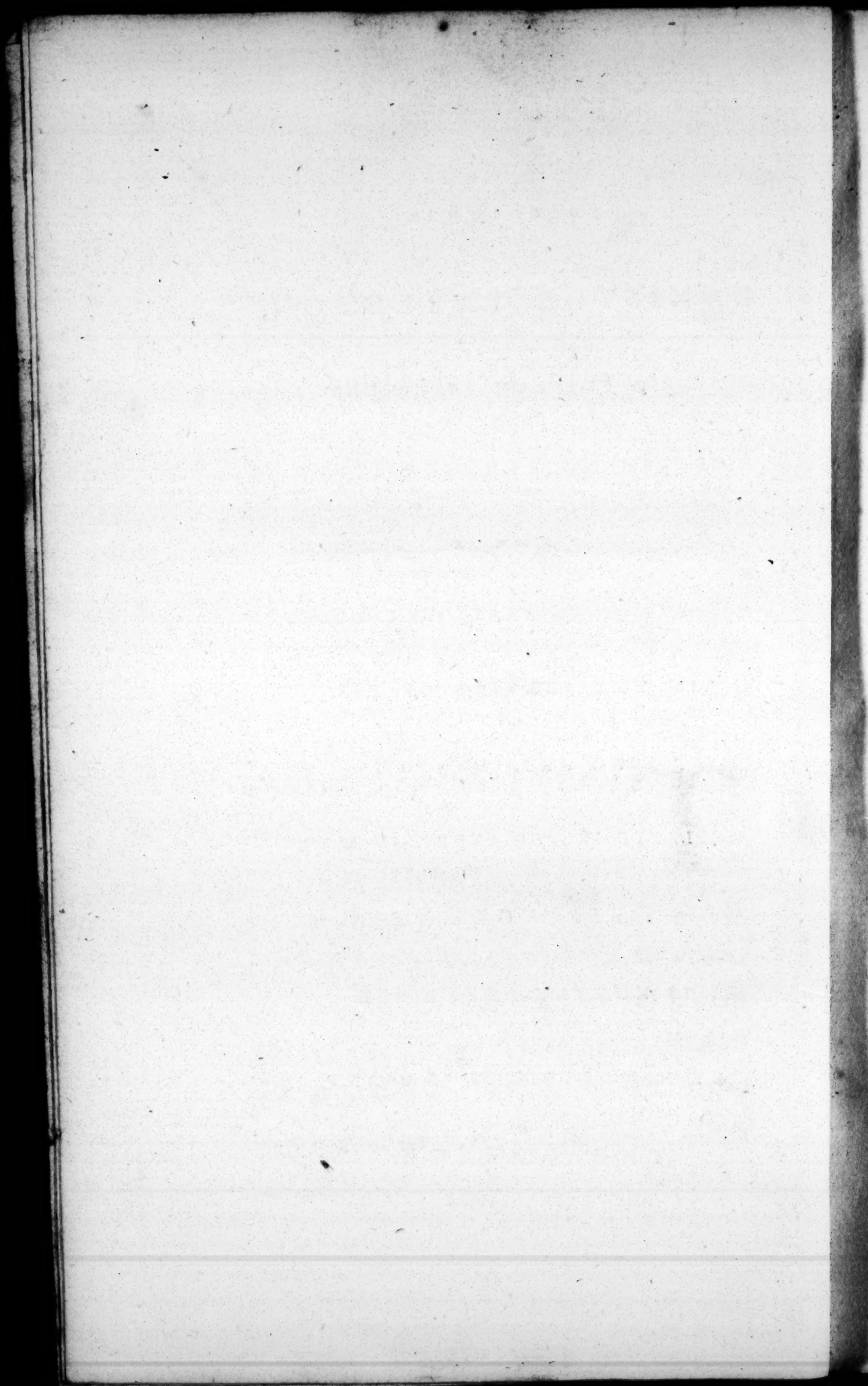
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TO COLONEL
BANISTRE TARLETON,
AS A PRIVATE TESTIMONY
OF ESTEEM AND GRATITUDE,
FOR A
GALLANT AND COURAGEOUS CONDUCT,
IN THE SERVICE OF HIS
KING AND COUNTRY,
DISPLAYED IN THE AMERICAN WAR,
THIS VOLUME
IS HUMBLY ADDRESSED
BY HIS OBEDIENT SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.



L E T T E R S

T O A N

OFFICER IN THE ARMY.

L E T T E R I.

DEAR BROTHER,

THERE is something between the dispositions of the late Lord Chesterfield, and Dr. Johnson, that would complete the character of a good and great Gentleman ; the former was well mannered, but ill principled ; the latter, on the other hand, is ill mannered, but well principled. His Lordship was

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better

better read in mankind than books ; the Doctor is more conversant in books than men : the former had an exterior appearance of affection for, and yet an inward contempt of, every body and every thing ; and the latter has an exterior contempt, with an inward respect for all things, and a soul humanely benevolent. His Lordship was beloved ; the Doctor revered ; the one for his affability, the other for his wisdom : yet both have kept the world in awe of them : the one because he was satirical, the other because he is cynical, and those qualities made them at enmity with each other. Courtesy is neither to be affected nor slighted ; for it is good to behave ourselves respectfully, and yet ridiculous to pass for a master of the ceremonies.

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THE mere scholar and the literary coxcomb are both troublesome creatures : if either of them have the sanction of family connection to support their consequence, you cannot be at ease whilst you are with them : each disgusts you by their extremes : the one by contemptuous contradictions, the other by insincere expressions, and unmeaning declarations : one frowns on you with the surly pride of a Diogenes, the other fawns upon and flatters you with the meanness of a sycophant ; one listens to ridicule, the other to betray you into an improper confidence of yourself.

SOCRATES said of one of his contemporaries, who was full of contradiction,
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that he was fit for nothing but solitude, as he could agree with nobody; for, though it be ingenuity to find difficulties in all things, it is folly to be opiniative: such men turn conversation into a skirmish, and are consequently greater enemies to their intimates than those with whom they are but slightly acquainted. On the other hand, to be over ceremonious is a tiresome affectation, and has been censured in a king, as a vicious singularity. Vologesus consented that his brother Tiridates should go to Rome to do his homage to Nero, and receive from him the crown of Armenia, on condition, that he should bear no mark of slavery, but have the same honours done to him, which were paid to the Roman consuls: all
this

this, says Tacitus,* was readily granted, for the Romans were accustomed to refuse nothing if they could have the essential part, dominion. To be entirely at the devotion of other people, neither relationship nor friendship can require, and to seem so, is quite ridiculous.

THERE is no nobility equal to that of a great heart, and there needs no singularity of deportment to shew it; a pompous speech or an insincere insinuation but ill correspond with it: the

* Petierat, nequam imaginem servitii Tiridates perferret; neu ferrum traderet; aut complexu provincias obtinentium arceretur, foribusve eorum assisteret; tantusque ei Romæ, quantus consulibus, honor esset scilicet externa superbia sueto non inerat notitia nostri; apud quos jus imperii valet, inania transmittuntur.

one favours of oppression, and the other of effeminacy. True greatness consists not in words, but in actions; good actions bespeak an elevation of sentiment, and a benevolence of temper.

AN affectation of the manners, either of Johnson or Chesterfield, in a situation like yours, would be both ridiculous and dangerous; and indeed affectation is always the exuberance of true breeding, and can never establish true consequence: but only such a false kind of importance as surely cynics or gentle petit maitres obtain. To be peremptory without knowledge, or to be monstrously polite without meaning, is to create unnecessary oppositions,

positions, or to be brought below common contempt. *Verdad es verde*, says the Spanish proverb, and should be spoken respectfully: but deceit is a false coin, and the deceiver the coiner.

I HAD once the honour of dining with Dr. Johnson, and should have discovered that he had wanted good manners, if I had not been taught not to expect it: he discoursed wisely, but he only discoursed. This was extraordinary, I thought, especially as he dined by invitation in our college, and was in company with men of learning. I could, however, discern that he had heard of his own foible, and he was *awkwardly* civil, to

conceal it; when, if his temper had been ruffled, he might have exposed it, so far he at least benefited by the maxims of a man he internally despised.

You will find nothing more common in life, than men endeavouring to make you believe that they are not what they really are; the covetous man, by decrying covetousness; the proud man, by declaiming against pride; the drunkard against sottishness; the pettish man against passion; and the knavish man against cunning; and if you reverberate the *argumentum ad homines*, they so ill conceal the tempers they revile, that they will instantly exercise them upon you.

No

No conversation should be personal, if we wish to be quiet ; when it is, even Lord Chesterfield has been known to be offended. Tiberius, who understood exceedingly well the maxims of government, hated flattery, but was afraid of being made too free with, "*adulationem oderat, libertatem mutuebat.*"

THERE is a kind of a *Je ne sçai quoi*, a something between freedom and reserve, or a sort of affable honesty which creates respect, and yet maintains a proper distance of those with whom we are connected. You will frequently meet and be obliged to hold converse with men, full of the dispositions characteristic of the two great people I have so often mentioned
in

in this letter ; but without the experience of the one, or the learning of the other, to regulate them. With such it is therefore requisite to be more upon your guard ; for they can admit of no *proprieties* but their own, and Sterne's maxim with such people is the best to be pursued. " Let every man ride his own hobby horse as he pleases, if he will not oblige you to ride behind him."

THE defiles laid by such for discretion, are contradictions to obtain explanations, and satirical words to exasperate, in which cases sensible men will be the most reserved. Moderation is an excellent shield, but spiteful retaliation opens the breast to the naked sword of a madman, which, like a
sharp

sharp tongue, can only be sheathed in the heart.

THERE is a carriage in some men, which makes it unpopular to give offence to those that regulate themselves by it, and which is composed of sincerity and diffidence, integrity and mercy, resolution and candour, virtue and liberality : shame will operate both upon arbitrary men, and those that are inflamed through passion, when the temper becomes cool, and the judgment collected. I do not mean by what I have said to wish you, or suppose that you will tamely submit to the intentional insult of any man, but only to consider whether it is intentional, before you proceed to that resentment which will prevent a repetition

petition of it. Bravery is not to be jested with; the Ephori of Sparta, heavily fined a citizen, who suffered himself to be injured without resentment; the mind should be made up of a mixture of sweetness and resolution.

THE example of a count of Savoy is not a bad one to infer the nature of a proper disposition from. When he was presented to Otho the emperor of Germany, to receive investiture of his principality, his right side was clothed in embroidery, and his left was clad in armour. The emperor demanded the reason of his whimsical habit, he answered, "I am thus dressed to shew your imperial majesty, that as on the one hand I am disposed

“ posed to pay homage to you, so on
 “ other I am ready to defend myself
 “ against all such as shall in the least
 “ offer to deprive me of my right.”

To be spirited but not impetuous,
 resolute but not rash, is the way to
 come off with credit when attacked by
 impudence or folly.

I AM very glad that captain
 Aspinwall is of your regiment, and
 goes with you to India; he has a great
 many good qualities, and a well-
 informed mind, and will not only be
 a pleasant companion, but a friend,
 from whom you may gain useful in-
 struction. Men of knowledge are prac-
 tical libraries, by whom the plea-
 sure

sure of conversation is seasoned by the profit of exemplary instruction.

HE is esteemed a scholar, has a well tempered disposition, and is so sincerely your friend, that I think you could not possibly have been more happy if you had the power to choose a travelling companion for the purpose of instruction; but no doubt his being in the regiment was your chief inducement to purchase into it.

COMMEND me to him with the respect of a sincere friend: we are old acquaintance: and tell him that I wish ardently for his health, prosperity, and a happy return from the land of slavery to this of liberty.

I SHALL

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I SHALL write again to you by the next post; I could wish to see you set sail, but that I have a womanish heart, when I take a formal leave of those I love, and should not only expose myself exceedingly, but imprint, perhaps, unfavourable impressions upon the minds of your heroic companions with respect to the stoutness of your heart, if I was seen in sorrow, when you depart to the discharge of your duty.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

A LONG voyage must, for the want of a variety of amusements, be exceedingly tedious to all but navigators, who are employed in their occupations. To prevent this, in some degree, I have sent you such books from my little library, as I think will alternately entertain and instruct you, and no doubt Mr. Aspinwall is so well stocked, being a man of reading, that with what I have sent, added to his collection, you will never want bookish amusement, until you arrive in
India,

India, where other work is doubtless laid out for you.

A HABIT of reading is attained by degrees, and when attained is scarcely ever disused. Nothing advances a man so much as knowledge; such as are possessed of it, have generally powers in proportion to it. Aristotle says, that knowledge differs as much from ignorance as life from death; and you will never have a better opportunity of getting into the way of it by theory, than whilst unemployed in a tedious voyage.

No doubt you are well provided with professional books; and as I have no knowledge in tactics, I would not presume to send or recom-

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mend any authors in that science, but refer you to the judgment and experience of military Gentlemen for a good choice ; such reading however is indispenfible, for no qualification furpaffes professional knowledge.

THE books I have fent are chiefly histories, travels and voyages, your favourite Shakespeare, with all the English classics, and to refresh your memory, your school books. I have indeed ventured to fend you Abbé Reynal's History of the East and West Indies, Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, and even the works of Voltaire, which I have been able to purchase, with Hume's History of England, and Robertson's of Scotland,

land, and Charles the fifth; though I like not the religion or politics of any one of them: but as you will observe that the two first historians had particular purposes to answer, foreign to the titles of their respective works, one to reflect upon the English legislation, and the other to destroy the credit of Divine Revelation; the insidiousness of their attacks will serve to shew, that being ashamed of their intentions, and fighting, as it were, under false colours, their probable facts related, and not their opinions, should only be depended upon, especially, as I have observed before, with respect to religion and sound policy.

VOLTAIRE is a more open enemy to revelation, and is the less dangerous than either of the other writers, or, even

Hume, who with an infinite deal of plausibility, is in principle an errant republican, and a violent presbyterian. Robertson is professionally so, but as their prejudices are conspicuous, they can make no improper impression upon a candid mind ; but *pass* it unshackled to discriminate their elaborate truths, from cunning surmises and crafty insinuations, which are despicably intended to support a singularity of opinion, or a party purpose.

THESE writers never appear but with a mask before their motives, which, sometimes surprises their readers into opinions that generally, for want of retrospection, they have not time, or the novelty of the author being at an end, inclination

inclination to reperfuse, take dangerous root. A policy thus effectual, is pursued with unremitting attention, and there are secret combinations, throughout the kingdom, to effect their ends, which are deism and republicanism, aided and abetted by people of the same complexion in all quarters of the globe. Some of our literary public reviewers favour strongly of the impregnation, for they speak well of few productions, whether religious or political, that have not an alloy of republican leven in them; nay, almost every publication, with them, has its praise or censure according to the known principles of the writer. It is not because their objections to the religious and legal establishment of the constitution of this kingdom are un-

answerable, that publications in the defence of both are not so numerous as the attacks upon them, but because honest diffidence declines a contest, where the criterion of right is to be determined by the partial; and as the superiority of both are practically more salutary and portentive of the spiritual and temporal welfare of the subject, they cannot be essentially injured, or recline from substitutes, the usefulness of which are, at best, but imaginary.

I HAVE sent you Blackstone's Commentaries, an excellent test against the political, and I may add, some of the opinions of the religious writers of the above cankered kidney, Burn's Ecclesiastical Law, with Grotius, the
the

the Whole Duty of Man, and a few manuscript copies of sermons of my own, which, but for——I won't tell you what, I might be induced to publish. You see I do not pester you much with religion; for when the understanding is convinced, and a faith is established, as I wish yours to be, it needs no props to support it, but is the support of all virtuous and moral actions.

L E T T E R III.

BOOKS are the best preventives of irregularities. If time is not spent rationally, it becomes an extravagant spendthrift, and presently consumes the constitution. Whether idleness or active immorality, impairs the health more, is, perhaps, not so easy to determine; they both dangerously affect the body and mind, and are alike destructive of the prospect of happiness to the soul. A listless stupefaction prevents practical virtue, and an improper gratification of the passions is

is offensive to reason. Drinking is the common method of killing, and being killed by time: it is a habit, if once obtained, that can never be shook off, and what is worst of all, it is stimulant to every other vice, and a violater of every virtuous principle. No confidence can be placed in a drunkard; no opinion can be relied on from him. It is often said, that if a drunkard was to see himself, when drunk, he never would again be intoxicated; but as the greatest difficulty in the world is, to know ourselves when sober; with a sot, it must be insurmountable. Nor is the supposition true, for such men too often see the similitude of themselves, and are seldom shocked at the example, however disgusting

disgustful in others. It is strange to observe, that, though nothing is more intolerable, nothing more offensive to a man, when sober, than a sot ; yet from sobriety you shall see the offended by-stander immediately degenerate into drunkenness. It is a vice that steals imperceptibly upon man, and is said to be the only one that increases with age, except avarice. Like avarice, it tends to dishonesty and disgrace, though not in the same way ; for one is by the accumulation of riches, and the other in sinking into poverty, by incapacitating men from looking after their own concerns, or following such occupations as should support them. A drunkard is indecent both in expressions and appearance ; his
gait

gait is that of a blind man; his conversation as incoherent, but not as inoffensive as that of an idiot; his actions are disgustfully wicked, and violently outrageous; he lives a short and miserable life, and dies a wretched melancholy death. Too much time upon the hands, and a fondness for company, is generally the first cause of a young man's beginning to drink. Drinking sometimes is flown to as the overwhelper of unforeseen disappointments, but more frequently to drown guilty reflection: but as there is scarcely any remedy for the distemper, and in the latter case, it is no cure for the complaints to which it is applied (which are symptoms of a constitutional cowardice, which is never to be eradicated) preventives
are

are the only expedients, and the best, are prudence and resolution. One keeps you out of the way of temptation, which is the easiest and most secure, the other resists her allurements, but is more difficult and uncertain: for when the heart dilates cheerly, the unreservedness of those around charms like the melifluous song of a Syren, until it elevates the ideas of a self-importance, and gives a conception, that all we know is of consequence, and should be communicated. A drunkard is always pleased with himself, like a fool, because his understanding is suspended, and as he cannot judge well of the qualities of others, he applauds himself for those he supposes himself possessed of; and, however

ever vulgar and indifferent they may be, he so overflows with honesty, that he keeps neither his own, nor the secrets of his friends ; but excites the attention of his companions, by relating the marvellous trusts that have been reposed in him, his wonderful fidelity in the discharge of them, and his still more astonishing resolution and manly defence against attempts to ruin his reputation with respect to the benevolence of his intentions ! His honesty does not even stop in the relation of his virtues, for he confesses all his vices, and, for fear of being thought hypocritical, he talks of his exploits as a bruiser, and his prowess with the fair sex ! In love he has been so resistless, that from his circumstantial method of relating

relating his amours, one would suppose he was more bent upon the ruin of spotless reputation, than the enhancement Adoneal qualifications: indeed the crimes he relates seem too monstrous to be committed by man; dispute his villanies, and he is too honest not to defend them to the destruction of his opponents, or the loss of his own life.

PLUTARCH's account of the quarrel, between Alexander the Great and Clitus, serves to shew us to what desperate lengths drunkards will proceed, drowning every distinction, and disgracing the highest dignity.

“ Gods! what ill customs are received in Greece!”

Was too pointed a reproof for an intoxicated monarch to bear from a drunk-

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en subject; and Alexander ran his friend and faithful soldier through the body. "No sooner," says this concise author, "was the deed done, "and he saw his companions in a profound silence, as if seized with horror at the fact, than he plucked the spear out of the dead Clitus, "and would have turned it against himself, if his guards had not by force prevented him."

To hear a drunkard say (when restored to his senses by sleep, and perhaps in penitence from the morning's sickly stomach and aching head) I hope I neither did nor said anything amiss last night, is a conviction that he is capable of doing deeds,
when

when drunk, which sober reflection would be ashamed of, and he immediately declares he will never be drunk again ; but the probability is, that his infatuation with, and fondness, for, company is so prevailing, or his thirst for liquor so great, that he is seen reeling drunk before sun-set. No man ever repented rising from the table sober, and with his senses about him ; that he has not scattered his words with his wits, to the hazard of his own or his friends reputation : and how happy must he be, who, though he might regret to leave his acquaintance when rationally convivial, conformed to his quondam resolution of not taking beyond a certain quantity, especially if he hears, that soon after his departure,

parture, those who have exceeded him in half a bottle, have entered into disreputable broils and unmanly mischiefs.

IF drunkenness be carried on with pleasantry, it is by excessive good nature, which sometimes exceeds the bounds of prudence and propriety, and brings forward intimacies with men that are frequently inconvenient, and discreditable acquaintance; for, under the influence of such a disposition, we are apt to promise, and sometimes to do, more for them, than in our cooler moments can be conveniently performed, or thought consistent with our own characters.

A VERY popular but convivial viceroy of Ireland, once in the hilarity of a drunken frolic, knighted a landlord, whose wit and wine had much delighted his excellency; but recollecting, and repenting next morning of his folly, he desired Boniface to mention nothing of the matter, to which he sensibly replied, such a dignity for a man in my situation would only be an incumbrance, but my lady is so proud of the honour, conferred upon her by *your excellency*, that her ladyship has been all over the town with it, these four hours.

DRINKING, you are not insensible, is as injurious to the health as to the reputation; nothing debilitates the faculties, whether mental or corporeal

corporeal, half so much. Loss of appetite, of limbs, of senses, and an early deprivation of life, are the general consequences of frequent intoxication, and to such a state are some men reduced, as to be convinced of the poisonous effects of, and yet are unable to live without, strong liquor.

THE practice of drinking is more immediately fatal in warm climates than cold, and should be more carefully avoided, especially as heat is a creator of greater thirst. I hope you will pardon me that I have said so much upon the subject. I assure you, I have not a supposition that drinking is a passion of yours; but there can be no impropriety, I would hope, in adding to your aversion

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to,

to, by shewing the fatal consequences of, the custom; especially when you will soon be more in the way of the temptation than you ever have been, and it will require a greater degree of resolution to avoid it.

L E T T E R IV.

AFTER so long a letter upon wine, I know no subject more proper than a disquisition upon women.

“ With women and wine I defy every care,”

is a favourite Bacchanalian idea, and the offspring of an intemperate mind, but is less dangerous than the serious doctrine of Thelephorist. What purpose the author of that treatise meant to establish, is very unaccountable. In a country which is called the women's paradise, an attempt to have *legally* allowed of bigamy, cannot *constitutionally* succeed ; and, however

the Doctor may find himself disposed under the reconciliation of *Divine* Testament, there are very few of our lawgivers, who do not think one wife in all *conscience* sufficient. He goes to very anterior dates for his authorities, but not quite far enough to be an impartial reasoner, or he would have found, that if it was absolutely necessary that a man should have more wives than one, Adam our primogenitor would have been blessed with a plurality of female companions, and what could he have done with them? Human policy might *locally* suggest the necessity, and lust would readily concur in adopting the idea, and bringing forward the custom: but religion and reason see a barbarity in

in enforcing it, which is more inhuman, than any thing that belongs to the brute creation.

IT is only practicable in despotic countries, where women are slaves to the men, and are confined during their lives, for the gratification of sensuality.

THE Mahometans have carried this doctrine farther than any other people whatever. The founder of their religion took it from the Pagans, as he did all other customs, which were most pleasing to the senses, that belonged to the Christians, Jews and Gentiles, that he might reconcile them under one profession, and preside over them as chief. But to

forward this scheme more effectually, he retired to a cave in Mecca, leaving behind him Sergius a Nestorian monk, who had fled from Syria unto Arabia for fear of punishment as a schismatic.

THIS man first put it into the head of Mahomet to found a new religion, as the only means to establish his importance. Sergius loudly proclaimed, that Mahomet was retired to the cave, to attend to nothing but meditation, and that he was receiving instructions from the angel Gabriel. No sooner did they apprehend, that the scheme was ripe for execution, than Mahomet returned into the world, and proclaimed liberty to all slaves and servants, as commanded by God, which brought unto him

him such numbers of people, as made him fearless of promulgating his other doctrines ; and that there might not be a decrease of believers, when the enthusiasm of the people abated, in consequence of the enjoyment of natural liberty, every man had the liberty to marry four wives, and allowed as many concubines as he could maintain ; but the women were considered as worse than slaves, for like slaves, they were not only to be purchased of their parents, but prohibited from entering their churches, and lastly, would have no entrance into Paradise. How far this concurs with scripture, or natural reason, I will leave you to determine. Woman was given to man for a companion in Paradise, and was not more faulty than
than

than man, in the actual sin of trespassing upon the commandment of her Maker; and as being the first aggressor, all her additional punishment was to be the pain of child-bearing, but she was not prohibited from the retributive mercy which was promised to man; and yet that it was so, which is a contradiction to revelation, must be the only plausible pretext for, and is a plea as admissive of bestiality as bigamy, and a superior one, if established in truth, to any, which the Thelipthorist has given.

HAS not woman reason, sensibility, fidelity, sincerity, integrity, benevolence, and all other moral virtues equal with, and some of them superior to,
man?

man? Why therefore should she be the slave of man? The fact is, she is more tender in her endearments, more constant in her affections, more regular in manners, more delicate in her conceptions, and more conformable to all moral obligations than man. If her understanding is inferior, it is only because custom has not allowed of the cultivation of her capacity: as her apprehension is generally more quick, and her impressions as lively as those of her lord and master, why therefore should she be the slave of man? Humanity knows no reason for it! It is only a brutish suggestion. Why should she, who was given to him as a companion, be more constant in her attachment, or more faithful than man? Candour knows no cause,
and

and conscience can give no credit to such a custom.

IN India, however, where you will meet with a mixture of people, natives, Arabians, Jews, dispersed as in other places; Portuguese, and people from every European country, you will find most men given up or yielding to these carnal indulgences. But I trust that you will remember you are a christian, and even with an infidel should act as a christian.

IT is not a momentary gratification that should lead us to the commission of an unfocial, or an unchristian-like crime, because we are in a country where custom may warrant it; but it is on the contrary highly unbecoming
the

the character of a christian to countenance any thing which the rules of christianity can constitute a crime.

WHATEVER may be said against common prostitution, may be advanced against bigamy, and more for the latter in having the sanction of the law, or common custom, makes no alteration with respect to the intention of the person who gratifies his passions under such colours. It is this which has occasioned so many divorcements in this country; for whenever marriages are contracted without mutual affection, and the parties give preference to each other with respect to opinion and sincere love, they are but at best prostitutions, according to law; and frequently brought about
by

by the means by which Mahometan bigamy is sustained; a bartering for beauty with an avaricious or an ambitious parent. Thus, to the disgrace of a free country, sprightly youth is sacrificed to impotent, lascivious old age; tempers are shackled together, which are disgustful to each other; and the consequences are incontinency and infamy, family disgrace, and sometimes family ruin.

THE father of the marriage act had principally in design, whatever the preamble may set forth, an intention to interrupt the dictates, which should flow from a natural connection of the sexes. It makes parents and guardians the arbiters of affection, imposes fresh rules of obedience, and supersedes the prospect

prospect of wordly happiness, by doating worldly prudence. If a young man and woman are enamoured of each other, and they are not fortun'd, according to the expectations of a guardian, they are too young to marry, or to know what they love; but if a decripid Dives makes his addressees, sixteen is not thought too young to be coupled to sixty, and every artifice is us'd to trepan the artless, to be bound for life to him she hates, and then is told she ought to love. But perhaps she has fallen in the way of an instructor, who tutors not by precepts, but by persuasives, and impresses the heart with ideas which do away the arguments of her arbitrary *preceptors*. How much more culpable are such parents, such guardians, and such

such husbands, than the distressed wanderers who cannot be called faithless to their affections, but to the vows imposed by the authority of unprincipled people, mercenary monsters, and libidinous brutes.

IN however pitiable a light we may view these unhappy, and perhaps abandoned females, we can give no credit to the libertine that soothes their condition under the veil of friendship, and artfully betrays them in resentment of their injuries into a departure from their duty.

“ Friendship with women is sister to love.”

AND under the sanction of that sacred name, in which sincerity and
kind

kind protection are combined to lull the artless into grateful love, and fan the passions into a lustful flame, is the most arrant villany that hypocrisy can invent. The solace of comfort in affliction is thus barbed with the acrimonious sting of conscience, which nothing can palliate; as a breach of virtue in others, cannot, by comparison, be an excuse for ourselves to commit the shadow of a crime. What shall we say then of the subtle seducer, who has the opportunity of making honourable love, and gains the affections but to ruin the reputation, and then casts a betrayed credulous creature, without character, upon the world?

You who are so full of brotherly affection must well know how to estimate

such a crime, and abhor the commitment of it, upon the principle of doing as you would be done unto. Should a licentious deceiver bring a sister of yours into a situation that would be disgraceful to herself, her family, and her friends, how would you think of the monster that misled her? Would the gratification of a carnal indulgence excuse him to you? Would any thing wipe away the stain that was upon her honour? If not, such reflections should surely prevent every honest man from prosecuting such sensual purposes. The distressed condition in which you see numberless wretched women makes virtuous humanity shudder at the idea of seduction.

WHEN I was last in London, an ill-dressed woman called upon me
one

one morning, and desired that I would go with her to a person in the greatest distress who requested to see me. The same woman had called several times the day before, but unluckily I was from home; and therefore, without a moment's hesitation, I attended her into —— Street, and was conducted up several flights of stairs, into a room with scarcely a whole pane of glass in the window, and without a fire, though it was in the depth of winter. On something like a bed, which was on the floor, lay Miss M —— an emaciated figure, worn down to the door of death, whom not three years before I thought as fine a woman as ever I saw; possessed of a lively fancy, and a good understanding, having had rather an accom-

plished education, and an address uncommonly affable. Such a scene, you may be sure, affected me exceedingly ; but not perhaps so much as it would have done, if my guide had not told me on our way, who it was that wanted me, and prepared me to look upon an object in the deepest misery, that the reflection of guilt could impress upon a mind, which has only the prospect of an immediate death. Though she hoped, and perhaps expected, I would come to her, she seemed surprised at my coming ; her pale face flushed with an hectic, perhaps a hue of shame ; she endeavoured to speak, but her tongue faltered ; she burst into tears : I had not words to sooth her, but turned to my conductor, and gave her what little
money

money I had, and bad her haste, so soon as I could speak, to get whatever was immediately necessary, and I would remain with Miss M—— till she returned. No sooner had the woman left the room than Miss M—— began to relate what was the cause of her being in that deplorable situation ; but I intreated her not to say any thing about it, for as it probably would renew the remembrance of some distresses, which might be too afflicting for her in the feeble state she was in, my curiosity was suppressed by my desires to rescue her from them. The faithful woman soon returned, made a fire, and prepared a breakfast of tea and toast ; she eat heartily, but was soon very sick ; I went immediately for

an apothecary, and when I came back, found her but little better. I desired to know of him, if she could be removed with safety to a more comfortable lodging; he said she might, and he recommended one, which I went with him to take. On my return to her, she begged she might not be removed, being fearful of its being too great an expence for me: but that was not all the difficulty; for she had no clothes, except a petticoat and a night gown, having sold or pledged every thing she had for meat. That objection was soon removed, and the next morning I went to see her in her new lodgings, and found from the woman, with whom she had lived, and whom I engaged to take care of her until she was recovered, that she

she had been ill of a violent fever, which had reduced her to the state in which I found her. Her story is as follows.

HER father was a younger brother of a good family, possessed of an estate of from three to four hundred pounds per annum. He married early in life to a lady equal to him in birth, but with a very small fortune, by whom he had three sons and one daughter, the lady I am now speaking of. The eldest brother of her father was an old bachelor, whose estate, amounting to five thousand pounds a year, was entailed upon Mr. M—— and his heirs male, with a charge for the younger children upon the estate, provided the uncle had no lawful issue.

THE uncle, who had the estate in possession, had often declared he never would marry, and in consequence of these highly probable expectations Miss M—— and her elder brothers were educated as people of distinction; the eldest brother had a commission in a regiment of dragoons, the second was intended for the bar, and the youngest for the church.

I was first introduced into the family by captain D—— a man of fortune, who paid his addresses to Miss M——. You have often heard me mention the vast satisfaction I once had, in a visit of six weeks, in the family. I never knew a happier, nor I thought, a better people. Soon after I left it, a few weeks before the
intended

intended marriage of captain D—— and Miss M—— were to have been solemnized, an account was received that the old uncle had been married some months to a beautiful tenant's daughter, and that she was with child; so that every probable hope of fortune from that quarter was almost annihilated.

THIS intelligence made a melancholy impression upon the mind of the father; for the education of his children had cost him so much, that his little patrimony was nearly exhausted, and he saw nothing but distress to those in whom all his earthly happiness centered. Captain D—— was with them when the news was first brought, and affected a sympathetic concern

concern for the disappointment of the family in general, but declared that the unfortunate event would make no alteration with respect to his intentions. Such generosity, on susceptible minds, was sure to impress the highest sense of gratitude and esteem, especially upon Miss M——, whose love was excited to adoration: but the captain was a cunning deceiver: he took the advantage of this enthusiasm, and seduced as virtuous a woman as ever existed. A few days before that, on which any but the most hardened villain in the world would have ended the suspense which would naturally ensue, from the time that she first yielded to his unlawful embraces, to the day fixed for their marriage, he contrived to
be

be called suddenly away, by an express from London, which gave an account, that his mother was on the point of death, and wished much to see him. The tale was a treacherous one, and so well told as to deceive even Miss M—— who had such cause of fear.

HE promised to return in a week, if possible; but no tidings were heard of him, of more than a month, though Miss M—— had written several letters to him. An answer was at last received, couched in the coolest language, which concluded with saying, that, “the situation of his affairs was such as made it necessary to postpone his marriage for sometime.” She then informed him
she

she had reason to believe herself pregnant, and implored him not to add shame to the misfortunes of her family, by exposing her conduct to the world, which she had every abhorrence of, that conscious reflection could suggest. To this importunity he had the effrontery to return the following answer.

MY DEAREST LOVE,

“ As I told you in my last letter,
“ that it would not be in my power
“ to marry at present with any kind
“ of convenience to myself, I wonder
“ you urge me to it. Your situation,
“ if you will come up to London, may
“ be

L E T T E R S. 61

“ be kept secret, and you may make
“ a thousand excuses for so doing ;
“ believe me I rejoice that I am in
“ a likely way to be soon a father.
“ I can fix you in a comfortable
“ private lodging to lie-in, where
“ neither you nor the child shall
“ want, if you will faithfully pre-
“ serve you affections for”

Yours, &c.

You must painfully conceive the distressed state of mind to which Miss M—— was reduced. Her father and brothers were anxious to hear captain D——’s determination, though they were all ignorant of her condition ; but her *interest* was so much theirs, that

that they would not look to the dishonour of a flight to establish it. She had however sufficient presence of mind, notwithstanding she was nearly drowned in sorrow, to dry up her tears, and to tell them that captain D—— had good reasons for not being married at present, and this was the surest way to get rid of any farther importunities. She was two or three days in resolving what she should do: she had a most detestable idea of the monster's proposals, and she could not stand the shame of being exposed to her family, and of exposing it to the world. At length she determined to elope, and seclude herself, not only from the vile deceiver, but from every eye to which she was known; and, as the metropolis was the

the only place where she was likely to do this, and to obtain a livelihood with her needle, to which alone she could now look for her maintenance ; she packed up what clothes she could carry, and in the depth of night walked to a neighbouring village, through which a stage passed every morning about one o'clock, and she took her place for London. She left a letter upon her dressing table, containing her determination in some degree, but not the real cause ; which she seemed to insinuate was, that she might not be a burden upon her family, which was now unable to support her, and that she must be, as captain D—— had in fact declined to marry her : she begged her friends would not follow her, as nothing should

should prevail upon her to alter her resolution. Her eldest brother, however, did follow, and overtook her, but she persisted and would go on. He then said he would also go on, and call captain D—— to an account for his behaviour; she entreated that he would not, saying, it would be a meanness which did not belong to him, or any part of her family, to force her upon any man: nor, if captain D—— would marry her, would she accept of him, after receiving such a slight from him.

THE brother, finding all arguments vain, returned home, and submitted to the force of her reasoning, with respect to any, even the most distant expostulation, with captain D——
after

after he had extorted a promise, that she would inform her family where she resided in London, and frequently to write to him, whether at home or with his regiment; but in this she broke her word; and, to guard against a discovery which should be shameful to such affectionate friends, she wrote to D—— the moment she arrived in town, to inform him of the steps she had taken, to prevent his writing to her in the country, and also of her resolution to conceal herself from him for ever. As a sure precaution to this purpose she sent the letter by the penny post, and immediately took a hackney coach and drove to a remote part of the town, where she was set down in the street, and soon found by bills of lodgings

to let, one that she thought would comport with her circumstances and situation. She was not long in obtaining employment for her needle, but gains in this way were very small, and her finances, not amounting in the utmost to more than fourteen pounds, were greatly reduced, before the time of her delivery.

HER constant application to business, and the little sleep she had, with an unhappy state of mind, brought on a very severe fever, and she was brought to bed of a dead child. When she was somewhat recovered, she was treated with great severity by the people where she lodged, as they had discovered that her money was exhausted. And after taking what clothes they
thought

thought proper, they turned her out of doors ; and had it not been for the humanity of the woman, who waited upon her, in her illness, she must have perished, or betrayed her name and connections to the world.

WITH this good woman it was, that I found Miss M—— reduced to the dreadful situation described. You will suppose, that on hearing the story related, nothing was left undone, which was in my power to serve her.

WHEN she had made known the whole of this melancholy story, she begged of me to inform her what I knew respecting her father and family ; I postponed doing this for several days by one excuse or other, till my excuses were likely to affect

her more than a full relation of what I knew, which was only from common report and newspaper intelligence : as I had not seen or corresponded with any part of her relations since captain D——'s desertion of her, because I had been introduced to their acquaintance by him, and could not expect, that after what had happened it could be agreeable, as it is too common to estimate mankind according to their connections.

I TOLD her, every possible enquiry had been made after her by advertisements, &c. until captain D——boasted of his infamy, and his slander had reached the ear of her eldest brother, who followed him into France,

France, where he was fled with another young creature he had seduced, and that her brother found, fought with, and killed him. I could not tell her, that her father was dead, for as she attributed the death of her *betrayed* to her own misconduct, and grieved for it; an account of the death of so good a parent would have been, in such a sickly state, as dangerous as a dagger to so affectionate a daughter. This I reserved to be related at not only a more proper time, but by a more proper person, and had accordingly written to her youngest brother, who was then in orders, a circumstantial account of her situation, that he might relieve her. Her brother, the Templar, I had called upon, but found he had not been

in town for several months, and where he was I could not exactly learn, neither did I know where to find the officer. I waited more than a week for an answer from the *parson*, but received none; I wrote again, and a third time; but without effect. By accident, I heard that the officer was with his regiment in the Dublin barracks; I wrote to him, but before I could receive any answer, I heard the clergyman was arrived in town, for the purpose of being ordained a priest, and met with him one morning at breakfast in a coffee-house, he usually frequented. I addressed him with my usual salutations, but he refused to return them; I demanded his reason, he was impertinent; I told him I would expose him, if with
all

all his *sang froid* he did not retire with me into another room; he immediately rose up, went into one, and I followed him.

No sooner were we left to ourselves than he demanded my business with him. I asked him if he had received any letters from me? He replied, three; and he should have thought that his refusing to answer the first might have convinced me of the contempt he should have of any that might follow: I asked him, if the contempt was intended for me? The contempt, he said, was for me or any other man, who wished to befriend the infamous woman I had written about: the disgrace of his family, and the murderer of his father. In my life, I never

was so enraged : I seized him by the collar, and threw him down : he was terribly affrighted ; and called for help. I believe I gave him a blow or two, and he then begged for mercy. I suffered him to rise, but kept him in the room ; for recollecting, that it was not in my power to maintain Miss M——, and that if it was, her character would be more hurt by it, than any thing which yet had happened to her ; and above all, the necessity of reconciling her to her family, not only to raise her above distress, but as the most probable method to restore her to health. I told him I would proceed in my resentment no farther, on condition, that he would only hear what I had to say ; but he was too much
afraid

afraid to make any attempt to leave me. I asked him, if it was his strict regard for virtue which led him to behave in that unmerciful manner to his sister: he did not answer me. If it was, I told him, his notions of human virtue were falsely founded, for there was not a human creature who was not liable to sin; and, therefore, not one who was not in need of mercy: if it was family pride which caused him to be inattentive to the claims of a sister, family pride should, at least, cause him to endeavour to maintain every part of it above penury and obligation to others; for family paupers were a vile reflection upon family pride; which principle so far from having its foundation in virtue, was inconsistent with every sense

sense of honour and common honesty. He then asked me to give his sister a guinea, which he offered to me, and he would consider of the propriety of seeing her. I threw the guinea at him, left the room, and, thank God, I have never seen this monstrous ambassador of heaven since.

I WENT every morning and afternoon to visit Miss M——, who, I was happy to find, gained strength gradually; and was got so well as to be able to sit up, and to do some little in the way of her occupation. I never mentioned her *reverend brother's* behaviour to her, nor that I had seen him; for I was too well acquainted with the delicacy of her feelings. Having now but slender hopes that she would have any assistance

ance from her other brothers, when one, who was supposed to be educated for the inculcation of benevolence, and to preach a religion established on mercy, was so obdurately hard-hearted, I sought out for such a source of constant employment, in her way, as might be the most likely to yield her a maintenance, until she could be suited with a more eligible situation; as governess to a young lady, for which she was well qualified. In these expectations I was however disappointed, for the officer no sooner received my letter, than he obtained leave of absence from his regiment, and would have been in London before I could have expected to have heard from him, if he had not been detained by contrary winds. I was
called

called up to him about two o'clock one morning, as he wished to have gone directly to his sister; but I begged he would not, for he had had no rest since he left Holyhead; but that would not have prevented him if I had not told him that it was necessary to prepare her for such a visitor, and that such an untimely call would terrify her exceedingly. There was a spare well-aired bed in the house, so after giving him a little refreshment, I persuaded him to go to it.

BEFORE he was up, I went to Miss M——, and told her, as tenderly as I could, of the benevolence of her brother; she was greatly affected. I ordered a coach and conveyed her to my lodgings, and was lucky enough
to

to return before her brother was up. When I heard he was stirring, I went to conduct him to her : but I never saw such a scene ; it was the essence of fraternal affection ; the heart of the brother overflowed with such kindness, as drowned the recollection of his sister's guilt, and hers with a gratitude, which religious penitence can only evince on the reception of celestial mercy.

I COULD not, if it would have been proper, have remained longer in the room : perhaps it was a selfishness that took me away : for great joys sometimes like great sorrows are best indulged alone : I left the room, to gratify myself in the luxurious feast of my own feelings. My
transport

transport however was soon at an end ; the bell rang with violence, and I ran back to the room I had just left, where I saw Miss M—— motionless in the arms of her brother. I asked impetuously if he had said any thing harshly to her : but his anxiety, though he answered not, convinced me that could not be the case. I found my own folly was the cause. I had forgot to tell him, that her father's death was not known to her, and her brother had answered her enquiries after him with truth, which I had daily evaded by equivocal answers or silence : the mistake however was irremediable : she had a succession of fits for four or five days and died.

I WILL not moralise on the subject more than to shew you, that as no
profession

profession is free from monsters in the shape of men, so none are exempt from men of real virtue and goodness. A gown and cassock may longer conceal a depraved heart than a suit of regimentals; virtue is naturally looked for under the mantle of holiness, and you are disappointed if you find it not; but how amiable does it appear, (and it is often conspicuous) in the character of a soldier, where there is a greater latitude for levity, and the profession is not so especially exempt from cruelty!

L E T T E R V.

IT has often been said, that gambling is the offspring of avarice ; if that really is the case, there needs no caution of mine to guard you against so infatuating and fatal a passion. But I am rather apprehensive, it does not altogether originate in that vice ; for I have known men of reputed generous tempers ruined by it. If avarice therefore is the father, may not extravagance be the mother of gambling ? And may we not suppose, that even from the concentrating of those dispositions of a constitutional

constitutional carelessness or a natural thirst of money—a gambler may be generated for

“ *Nemo repente fuit turpissimus.* ”

A GOOD temper, like yours, is much sooner beguiled into a habit of gambling than a covetous one, and the more likely to be imposed upon ; for care is full of precaution ; calculates chances with more precision, and hazards nothing but common luck, in which there is no odds, unless the game depends upon dexterity, and then it is commonly carried on by deceptions, which good temper is too generous to suspect, and has too much integrity to adopt. Gambling, by the avaricious, is studied as a science, and practised as an art. But by

the good tempered man it is entered upon for amusement, and frequented through fashion: the insatiable lust of the former, leads him to grasp at every thing until he looses his all, he then becomes dishonest, is distrusted, and his character is destroyed; the latter with an idea of recovering the little he has lost, in pleasure, doubles his stake, and looses again; grows desperate with his loss, and plunges into deeper distress by doubling and doubling, on the dependance of luck, which his artful opponent craftily cozens out of the question. The few successful, compared to the unsuccessful gamesters, are almost as incredible as the probability of my obtaining twenty thousand pounds in the lottery by a single ticket, and, if
I have

I have hazarded my all upon it, fully as rational. It is generally some extraordinary chance which sets a man above the incidental expences attendant on play, and these are seldom calculated. The loss of time, which might be better employed, and, upon an average prove more productive, by looking after our domestic concerns; and the appearance that a gambler must make above a common sharper, are circumstances in a high or middle state of life, which are seldom brought into consideration, by the nicest calculators; therefore to maintain the equilibrium at common stakes, is to be a loser on the long run. Thus moderately successful and tolerable proficients in the art gradually incline

to poverty, and, though not so soon, in the end, are as certainly *done up*, as the ignorant and unskilful.

THE first fortunes in this kingdom have been dissipated by gaming. How then can those who are not above or below mediocrity expect to escape ruin if they follow it? And a ruin too of all others the most despicable; for who can look upon a man with pity, when you see him undone in endeavouring to undo others? Who can wish a distempered incurable to live (and the itch for gambling is proverbially said to be incurable) to contaminate others, and by its contagion bring them to the same dreadful level.

MONEY

MONEY is of no real use to a gambler, for he takes credit for the necessaries of life until credit cannot be given him, and throws away what might have supported him with honour, the *neplus ultra* for a competency, in prodigal sport. Even if successful, he becomes instantly ambitious, and his competency is crushed in the hope of greatness, and like Alnascer, his glasses are no sooner kicked into the street, but his grandeur, with the quickness of a juggler, is obtruded by the horrors of a goal.

WHAT a strange infatuation must it be which brings men who have lived in the first circles of a fashionable life, have enjoyed every comfort and convenience, nay every luxury that

this world can afford—What an unaccountable madness, is it, that reduces them to a state wherein it is shameful to see them, and where if they engage the pity of those who do behold them, it is that kind of pity which is contemptible to reason, and is proved by their declamations against inhuman relations, who are unwilling, or perhaps unable, to support their *extravagances* ; treacherous friends who have been long deceived through affection, but at last have been convinced of their faults ; or, abusing gambling acquaintance, who have cut their connections, because the advantage of a future intimacy, would be a thousand to one in favour of the complainants.

HENCE it is that you see more men in an unpitied state of distress from this
vice,

vice, than any other whatever ; almost every passion has a momentary gratification to encourage it ; but this has only anxiety in the fulness of enjoyment, and brings ill reflections after it. The successful gamester has in the retrospect of his practice, the distress just painted to ascribe to himself, and more ; the starving innocent families ; and the ruined industrious creditors of such wretches are mirrors of his mischiefs ; cowardly suicide is a consequence ; and all beyond may be found in the last dying speeches of the many robbers and murderers, whose crimes are imputable to gambling ; therefore conscience can never call a gambler an honest man.

L E T T E R VI.

HAVING been at Buxton for near a fortnight, I did not receive your letter (which had lain at Acres-barn four or five days) before last night. The young man you mention I remember very well, he lived with me two years, and was the best servant I ever had; my reason for parting with him was, because it was *necessary* that he should be married, and a married is not so convenient as a single servant, to a man of so
rambling

rambling a disposition as myself; I therefore fixed him in a situation in the neighbourhood wherein he was born, that he might, without some unforeseen misfortune or misconduct, have got a comfortable livelihood: how it happens that he is reduced to this present state, I know not; but if you find, on farther inquiry, that it is not his own fault, I beg you will do all in your power to have him released, and even if it is, that you will do him any little service you can, as an encouragement to make him better; for men do not so often proceed in vicious courses, from the pleasures they yield, as from the uncharitable treatment of people of reputation after the commission of one crime; and having once encountered shame, they
 associate

associate with those in the same or a worse situation, and become habitually abandoned.

THERE was indeed something in his behaviour to the young woman he married I did not altogether approve ; for though he had courted her for some time, he was indifferent as to exposing her, and perhaps if I had not shewn some displeasure at his behaviour, he would not have been married. It is one of my maxims in life to consider myself, in some degree, responsible for the conduct of my servants : for the example of a superior is more likely to be imitated, than that of an inferior ; and I required of him what I think I should have done had I been in his situation. Had the
young

young woman's conduct betrayed a wanton disposition, or had there been any reason which he could have assigned, to give him a dislike to her, I should not have endeavoured to have forwarded their union; but that was not the case, for an old woman in the neighbourhood, with a few hundred pounds, had made overtures to him, and he had some hesitations whether he should sacrifice himself to the doctard, or marry, as he said, "the woman to his mind."

AFTER I had given him some of my old-fashioned sentiments on the occasion, and backed them with some promises, which perhaps had a more powerful effect, he resolved to reject
the

the old woman, and marry the young one.

THOUGH I am a great advocate for early matrimony, having no notion of happiness arising from a match of mere convenience, I cannot advise you or any other friend to, nor do I think a good or sensible man will, marry before he is possessed of such a competency as will secure to the object of his choice, all the conveniences she had enjoyed before, and had a right to expect after marriage. These conveniences, however, are not difficult to be obtained; for what I mean by them, is not a life of show or luxury, but to have the possession of that which will yield, what are humbly called the common, but are,
in

in fact, the only substantial comforts in life; such as an appearance, according to that station, which the world expects you should fill, whether of birth, education, profession or connection, with a suitable provision for those who depend upon us, whether children, more distant relations, friends, or servants.

To behold the partner of all our cares, and a rising innocent generation involved in the distresses of an imprudent father, is a most lamentable scene indeed. In the lower classes of existence, where the supplies of the necessities of life depend upon mere industry alone, this case seldom occurs, and when it does, the effects of it are not so pitiable: for the
fall

fall from an independency, maintained by daily arduous labour, is not so severely felt as when from an exalted or a middle station, a man drops to the degrading level of penury, and all that his near or dear to fall with him.

“ I cannot dig, to beg I am ashamed.”

PICTURE to yourself the phrenzy of that aspect, which is worked up to such despair, surrounded by an innocent, lovely offspring reduced to hunger, and all the afflictions attendant on a state of poverty ! Hear the craving little innocents cry for a morsel of bread ? See through their tattered garments their feeble limbs, almost

almost enervated by the frost-chilling blast of a winter's wind? Look upon the mother with her lifeless youngest infant upon her lap, bathing it with the streaming tears of sensibility, alternately expressive of sorrow for its surviving brethren, which are left to struggle with the hardships of poverty, and again pleased that it is released from the pains which they endure. This pair loved each other, and married without any other portion than love. I am not giving you an imaginary scene, but speaking of Mr. C—— and his amiable wife; they have been lately reduced to a situation almost as distressful as this: they are both young people of family: he ran to Scotland when he was not more than nineteen, and she not seventeen

seventeen years old. The produce of a pair of colours was all they had to subsist on when they returned from their matrimonial trip : for, though she is no less than the grand-daughter of an earl, she has never been permitted to see him, nor in any one instance (though now the mother of four and once of five living children) has not received one single fix-pence from his lordship towards her support since she married. Mr. C—— had no other fortune than his pay, though good expectations of promotion by the interest of his connections : and it was thought advisable to keep up appearances as much as possibly could be, with the hopes that either her friends would soon forgive her,
or

or that he might obtain rank through his connections.

BUT the hopes that are built upon the tempers of others, and especially those which are founded upon the promises of the great, are proverbially known to be more frequently abortive, than productive of any real good. In both respects they were disappointed, so that in a very short time Mr. M—— was obliged to sell out of, and retire from, the army.

THE debts he had contracted were more numerous and larger than he thought they were; for whenever a man is pinched by poverty, he pays more for what he wants than if known to be rich; seeing that he can seldom

be a customer, but on credit; and credit has no bounds to its value if taken from necessity: whereas the rich man can with propriety barter with his tradesmen, and if he approves not of their prices leave them. Four hundred pounds, for which Mr. C—— sold his commission, was soon finished with a fashionable and increasing family. Mr. M—— concealed his poverty, as long as he could, with honesty; he applied for a clerk's place in an accompting-house, but as he wrote a bad hand, and had been in the army, nobody thought him proper for such an undertaking; he then taught some children English, for he had forgot the little Latin he had learned at school, but this expedient was not sufficiently profitable.

A breeding

A breeding sickly wife, whom he dearly loved, was seldom able to do any thing towards the support of herself (but she did all she could) therefore he was at length reduced to the extremity described. His last expedient was an application to a quondam friend of his own to accept him as a servant. This request was rejected; but, to the credit of true friendship, in such a way, as charity refuseth—to serve the distressed more essentially—and Mr. C— received a present of one hundred guineas from his friend and once brother officer, who since, through his interest, has prevailed on the earl of — to settle a handsome annuity upon his granddaughter.

“THE quality of mercy is not strained.” “It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven, upon the place beneath. ’Tis twice blessed, it blesteth him that gives and him that takes.”

As you will perhaps have time to favour me with a letter or two more before you set sail, I beg you will not forget to let me know what you have done about William, or what can be done for him. If I can serve him (consistently with what may have been the cause of his situation and my character) or be instrumental in obtaining his freedom, I will do all that is in my power. Servants that are not discarded for faults should always be treated with tenderness and respect, through life ; if they are good in their
respective

L E T T E R S. 101

respective situations, they are generally as faithful friends as any we can get; and their friendships should be invariably returned, or we submit ourselves to the meanest obligations.

L E T T E R VII.

I HAVE, according to your directions, made such applications as I hope will in due time effectually liberate William. I am really happy that I am not so far mistaken in him as to find him less honest than I thought him.

THE impress service may have its uses, but it certainly abuses the civil liberty of an English subject; and as the nature of it is repugnant to that constitutional freedom, which the legislature should maintain, the necessity of
of

of impressing should never be urged beyond convicted felons, incorrigible vagrants, or vile offenders against the laws. That it is necessary to impress men in times of war, arises, with respect to mariners, from a mistaken notion of the merchants of this kingdom, who, for their own convenience, give larger wages than what is allotted by government, and encourage the sailors to conceal themselves, and sometimes to be idle for several months, until the merchantmen, they are engaged to, are ready to sail; whilst his majesty's fleets are unmanned, and might remain so, if some kind of force was not used to bring the sailors into that service.

I ONCE suggested a scheme to a Gentleman of extensive experience and

H 4

knowledge,

knowledge as a statesman, (and who had often lamented the necessity of impressing) a remedy for both these difficulties, and I cannot help thinking, that if it was put in practice it would prove effectual. He in a great measure subscribed to my opinion, but retiring in consequence of ill health from parliament, he never broached the opinion, or perhaps, on maturer consideration, might think it would be ineffectual.

The scheme was as follows:

“ THAT every merchant shall be
 “ obliged to furnish the king, with
 “ a certain number of able seamen,
 “ previous to his own ship being
 “ permitted to sail out of any of his
 majesty’s

“ majesty’s ports, wherein the said
 “ ship shall take in a cargo or loading.
 “ Except what might be called pro-
 “ visions for the use of the navigators
 “ or passengers on board.

“ THAT the number of seamen that
 “ shall be for the king’s use, shall
 “ be in proportion to the size of the
 “ ship or number of hands employed
 “ by the merchant.

“ THAT a certain number of com-
 “ missioners shall be appointed of
 “ half-pay officers, disabled from
 “ actual sea service, to examine and
 “ approve of such sailors as the mer-
 “ chants shall offer to the king’s ser-
 “ vice, and to reject all such as
 “ shall be thought unfit for it, with
 an

“ an advancement to full pay, in
“ proportion to the rank they shall
“ respectively bear.

“ THAT the same bounty which is
“ now given, or any other which shall
“ be thought expedient to be given,
“ shall be granted *by government*, to
“ every failor who shall be offered by
“ the merchant, if the said failor is ap-
“ proved of by the said commissioners.

“ THAT an additional bounty shall
“ be given to every failor, who shall
“ voluntarily offer himself, without
“ the introduction of a merchant to
“ the said commissioners.

“ THAT no merchant, or person
“ employed for a merchant, shall give,
“ by

“ by way of bounty or wages, to any
 “ failor to enter his own service, more
 “ than the stipulated sum allowed by
 “ government, to such failors as shall
 “ be offered for the service of govern-
 “ ment.

“ THAT if any merchant, or person
 “ of any description whatever, shall
 “ infringe upon these orders, certain
 “ penalties shall be annexed to every
 “ such infringement, according to the
 “ nature of it, with such other re-
 “ gulations as may experimentally be
 “ found necessary for the furthering
 “ this scheme.”

THE merchants will doubtless, to
 a man, protest against such a plan
 being brought into execution, and
 complain

complain of the hardships of being obliged to be recruiters for the king's service. But if it is considered that, in return for these hardships, their property is protected, and their ships are convoyd by the very men they have recruited, and neither the bounties nor wages of those men are paid by them, but by government; the appearance of hardship must be banished by gratitude, and the idea of *private* convenience disappear in the face of *public* good. This mode of proceeding will not only ease government of the enormous expences consequent on the impress service; but will prevent every honest sailor lying idle a single day, after he has spent the earnings of his last voyage, especially as he can have no
hope

hope of returning to his favourite element, but by the passport of the king's commissioners; and the emoluments from the king, whom every loyal subject must delight to serve and to honour, will be equal or superior to those gained in the service of the merchant.

THE recruiting of the army might also be effected without the expences which now attend that service, by obliging the constables or overseers of the poor of every township or parish, to furnish government in time of war, or even in peace, with such a number of men, as the militia laws have proportioned to every district; and that, according to the exigences of the crown, in case of death, or the disability of a soldier, his place shall be filled up
by

by allotment or by enlisting; and that the necessary bounties shall be allowed by government out of the collection of the land tax: thus all mankind, interested in the welfare of, as protected by, government, would administer to its support; the poor industrious man would not be trepanned from a family that depends upon him for support, as there would be no more difficulty in raising regular, than militia, regiments. What dissipation and drunkenness would be prevented, not only in the recruiting parties, but amongst the lower classes of the people in general; it being the interest of the former to encourage the latter to join them in their revelings, and to enlist the unwary in the height of intoxication. Vagrants, &c.

should

L E T T E R S. I I I

should never be impressed, or obliged to serve in the army, until they are proved guilty before a jury of such trespasses against the law as are offensive to civil society. But to make a justice of the peace, in his official capacity, the absolute judge and condemner of his fellow-creatures, is an inlet to the exercise of a caprice, to which any man may become a victim.

LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

MY letters are now very short ones, in comparifon of many you have received ; but as every poft may be the laft before you fet fail, I fhall not omit one, but write to you till then. I am obliged to you for your care of William, and am very well pleafed that he has obtained his liberty. I yefterday received a letter from a friend of mine, of whom I had made inquiry of William's real fituation, and the caufe of his being imprefled,

pressed, and find that he has met with some losses, through his credulity, and that his circumstances are but in an indifferent state; that he had given some offence to some neighbouring Gentlemen, by befriending a poacher, and that they had no other method of revenging themselves, but by having him pressed. His wife was left in deplorable distress, and has relief from the parish. The difficulty now is to know what can be done for the poor man? In so distressed a condition, men with honest intentions may be brought to evil practices, and, like the felon who has been convicted, when either pardoned, or, after suffering the penalty of the law, wants a character to get into the way of earning his daily bread, he is necessitated

almost to return to his villanous practices for support, as every body is fearful of employing, in any capacity, people of such a description.

IT is much to be wished, that there were situations appropriated by, and under the direction of the legislature, where such sort of people would have employment to keep them above want, when, or however they may return from slavery or bondage, the proper reward of their crimes ; else it is scarcely possible that the present public punishments should serve any other end, than that of exhausting the remains of integrity, and leaving the poor creatures without the protection or confidence of the community.

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munity. Perhaps some of poor William's wife's relations may take pity and assist him; though I am rather fearful they are of a callous kind, or they would not have suffered her to have been relieved by the Parish in his absence. I have it not in my power to do him much service, but will try to persuade them to do something, and I will be bound with him to repay them. Send the inclosed letter after him. I give you the trouble of it to save postage, as he is but a little way from Portsmouth, and it will come under a frank to you.

I wish you every enjoyment of health, happiness, and a speedy return, but no prosperity that conscience will

not give credit to; be virtuous, and you will be as happy as I wish you.

N. B. WRITE if you can the moment you set sail, and do not omit a single opportunity afterwards.

LETTER

L E T T E R IX.

I HAVE never received the letter you mention to have written after Commodore J—— left you, and wondered exceedingly, that you did not embrace what I thought, would have been a favourable opportunity of informing your friends of your welfare. You may easily suppose, that our anxiety to hear, and our apprehensions for your safety, were not of a lukewarm nature. Indifference, in the least, to one who has always been so affectionately respectful to us, would

have been a sort of ingratitude, too monstrous for a common acquaintance to commit. What then under a conviction of that regard for us could bring to our imaginations, but that either we had collectively offended you, or that you were no more? Else we could not conceive, that there would be the least chasm, wherein we should have to upbraid you for the want of attention to the natural expectations of those, you used to pay an unremitting respect to.

THE favour, I have now to answer, has quieted all our alarms; and rejoiced us that you are, and will remain to us, what you ever have been; and that heaven may preserve and prosper you, is the general and private prayer
of

of all to whom you belong, and I believe to whom you are known.

No doubt the letter you allude to was destroyed like many others, which perhaps would (too early for the Commodore's convenience) have borne, whatever might appear disgraceful in an expedition which he was commissioned to undertake, in consequence of his own promises in the house of commons, of the certainty that the Cape would be captured, when in truth the practicability of the scheme, as it now turns out, was scarcely probable.

SUCH has been the trick, by which many of the commands in our navies and armies have been obtained, and

the ministry bullied during the whole of this war into a belief, and an adoption of schemes, which have proved, in the end, as abortive as any of the schemes of Don Quixotte de la Mancha,

DOUBTLESS the Commodore like others of his defeated brethren, (for I can only call a projected purpose, not effected, a defeat) will return to parliament such an account of his expedition, as will ascribe whatever could not possibly resist his power to his own good conduct, and whatever he failed in to the bad information of the ministry; notwithstanding he suggested, and insisted upon the necessity and beneficial consequence that must accrue from the undertaking.

It

It is an excellent method of brokerage, where a man has the certainty of gain without loss. No wonder, therefore, that he should *so willingly* undertake to be the broker; but it was a strange suspension of thought which misguided the mind of administration into an assurance, that the least national advantage would ensue from such an enterprise, and such an enterpriser. Were it possible to suppose, that the *Commodore* was *stimulated* by an inward conviction of the certainty of success, it shews the absurdity of placing an implicit confidence in one man; and especially in one, who to speak the most candidly, might be, *imperceptibly*, biassed into a confirmed belief of the efficacy of his scheme by the *secret* influence of his
 own

own interest. With what propriety then can he exclaim against government, when he has not only deceived himself, but deceived that branch of the legislature of which he was a member? Even with as much as a favourite general of yours has done, who could march through, and subdue all America with fifteen hundred men, and suffered himself to be tamely taken prisoner, together with twice that number of chosen soldiers at his command. How unfit are such men to represent a *proverbially too credulous* people! Credulous even to the ridicule of every other nation. And yet the *bottle conjuring* business, in various shapes, in spite of its odious reflection, constantly practised upon us; or we should never, after such deceptions,

deceptions, return such conjurors to parliament, nor would the House of Commons think them worthy of being received as British legislators.

NEVERTHELESS, we find that *pa-*
triotic opposition, in defiance of common sense, has not been ashamed to defend such egregious errors, and to espouse *again* the authors of such misfortunes. The flower of our young nobility, descendents from families that have for ages been recorded as the most strenuous supporters of the dignity and just power of the crown have disgracefully supported them; even the earl of — has taken a disgust, and affects to decry those principles, which, (if he would look back to the blushing
pages

pages of republican sacrifices, he would find) actuated his primogenitors, who were fraught with an unshaken loyalty to kings, and attributed even personal flights to royal misconceptions and insidious misinformation; being conscious of the fidelity of their attachments, and one of them defended his principles so far as to suffer death upon a scaffold; a presaging blow of what soon afterwards befel his sovereign. Had the present earl a regard for the illustrious examples of magnanimity which his ancestors displayed? Had he even the *female* fidelity of his family (but it deserves a stronger epithet to describe it, for I am alluding to the intrepidity of that unparalleled heroine, who so long withstood and fought against the rebellious foes of royalty)

royalty) he would not surely have been the *first* of a long train of descendents to forego the honour derived from thence, or have suffered his affections to be warped from the king, through a picque which arose from a proper slight shewn to the misconceptions, if not to the misconduct, of a disgraced general, who had misled almost half the kingdom, however plausible his pretexts might be, to mislead his lordship.

IF a temper, too quick in resentment for mature reflection, had not hurried him beyond social considerations, he would have found that the conduct of the king could not be personal to himself; for every distinguishing mark of royal regard has been
shewn

shewn to him, and the steadiness of his majesty's temper was too firm to be removed from him, from a failure in the conduct of any other person.

THE Spanish proverb is extremely applicable to such tempers as are experimentally convinced of the friendship of others, and afterwards act as if it was doubted;

“ KNOWLEDGE will become folly, if good sense does not take care of it;”*

And surely it is a great mark of folly for a man to desert his *principles*, because his interest or ambition is not privately supported, or publicly gratified, or to change sides, because, and

* Cuneia ex Locura Lefo no lo cura.

only because, your friend is not countenanced in every thing you say or do; and more especially, if found inadequate to perform what has been proudly promised.

THE father of the earl of — was actuated in his political conduct by motives infinitely above selfishness. When the seeds of American rebellion were in sowing, he endeavoured all he could to dissipate them. He spoke against the stamp act; he surmised what would be its fruits; but when they were sown he would not relinquish the crop that was likely to be produced; for that would, he wisely prognosticated, bring into dispute the right and property, not only of a partial produce, but of the inheritance
of

of the owner, and he voted against a repeal. In those decisions he discovered to the world, that he had in view the privileges belonging to the people, and strenuously defended them; but at the same time preserved inviolate the prerogative of the crown. What a misfortune to this country was the death of lord S——? Every individual that remembers, must bewail it, and how doubly so must it be to his only son, who is neither wanting in genius, capacity nor education, to have made an excellent statesman, as valuable a member of society, and as trusty a friend, whether in public or private life, if he had not been converted from the pursuit of those qualifications, which rendered Lord S—— so dear to his country? But so it is, that
those

those, who administer to our pleasures, too easily obtain such an ascendancy over our inclinations, as to be the directors of our actions; and thus the *General*, who befashioned, has *champe-tred*, a promising nobleman out of the channel, in which his family principles so long have flowed. Neither relationship nor friendship should oblige a man in a public capacity, and especially in one so exalted as a peer of the realm, to give up himself to the private interests of another: let a private man hazard his life and fortune to serve his friend; it is an act worthy of commendation: but *Salus populi suprema lex esto*, is Ciceró's motto for a king, and is not unapplicable to what should be the principle of his counsellors. A great

man who loses himself with another, especially his inferior, may be compared to a plumb tree, I have some where read of, whereon the grafted branches bore better, and larger fruit, than the natural ones; of which an observer once said, that it was an evident example, that sometimes one's own assistance was made use of against one's self.

HE, who is in the mud, calls you to comfort him, *at your cost*, when you are bemired with him.

As I shall send you every opportunity that offers in these difficult times the public papers, there is little need for me to deal in news, except what relates to our private connections;

connections; and since you left England, there has been no alteration that I remember in our family affairs, except, if possible, the affection of it for you increases by your absence. In all that can be wished for your welfare we join most sincerely, and for the whole I subscribe myself,

Yours, &c.

Pray write frequently.

L E T T E R X.

THE death of captain Aspi—ll is a great misfortune to you, and a loss to the community at large : but did all our comforts depend upon our friends, they would be confined to a narrow compass indeed ; as almost every day deprives us of one or other of them, and *time* might possibly leave us without one to console us in our afflictions. The mortality of man should be considered as an admonition of our instability, and teach us the folly of placing all our affections

tions on things belonging to this life. You speak, my dear fellow, of your affliction in terms so full of phrensy, that I should almost be jealous enough to accuse you of disrespect, to those you never had a reason to put in competition for your affection, even with captain A——. If he be dead, you have brothers and sisters alive which love you, at least, as well as he did; you have more, for you have a father and mother, who, if you knew how they speak of you in your absence, you would think it worse than death to die until you had seen them. I do not blame you for sorrowing for your friend, but your mode of expressing yourself on the occasion, which insinuates, that you think you have no friend left now he is gone: when the fact is,

that you have lost no friend but one : you have, if I may use the expression, instinctive friends, whose eyes, if you are not lost to filial love, you must be equally shocked to close in lasting insensibility. In the short time you have been away, I have lost some of my best friends, for whom I had every reason to be afflicted ; for they were friends at least as disinterested as captain A—— could be to you, and had my welfare as much at heart ; but I always found a thousand reasons to console me under the loss, though I never was more in need of friends. I had the certainty of every *near relation* being left to me, except you, and I had even the comfortable hope, that you were alive, which I am happy to find I am not disappointed in ;
and

and yet if it were not so, it would be an ungenerous repining at the wisdom of Providence, which gives, and has a right to take away.

WAS I to speak of my intimate acquaintance, whom I have lost, in such strains of melancholy as you have done, I might cause you to sympathise in my sorrows; but mature reflection would soon lead you to believe, that the cause of such an excessive mourning, must, in part, be attributed to more than gratitude for what they had done, even to an expectation of what they might have done for me. Is there not therefore a selfishness betrayed in such sorrows beyond that delicacy which should describe perfection?

And should not such disappointments rather teach us to look into, and depend upon, ourselves for happiness through the divine grace, than to depend upon the life of our best friend, since the mortal life is not to be depended on?

IN the town and neighbourhood of Wigan, I could number the deaths of seven or eight acquaintance, by some of whom I have been greatly obliged, and I never receive favours from, or thank those that I despise. I did indeed grieve much for the death of one;* but it was not a selfish grief, (though he had given me a singular proof of his wishes for my

* Mr. G — E — les.

welfare,

welfare, and through his recommendation and interest I was nominated to an ecclesiastical benefice, but indeed to serve his friends was always a greater happiness to him, than the promotion of his own interests :) I did not even grieve in gratitude ; for all other considerations were drowned in the recollection, that he had left a sickly widow (who is since dead) with a group of helpless orphans, to the mercy of a rude unfeeling world. He had not, alas ! been so provident in the early part of his life as might have been expected ; he was a man of pleasure, but he had also met with misfortunes ; however, he was just dawning from the cloud, and bent upon the recovery of what he had lost, by a diligent application

application to business ; and had the bright prospect of securing to his helpless posterity something to set them above absolute poverty, or a state of dependence ; when in the firmness of this resolution and hope, (perhaps from an over anxiety and diligence) a fever suddenly put an end to his existence.

“ In the midst of life we are in death. ”

And if therefore there be a cause of excessive friendly sorrow, it must be in such cases as this ; for no protection is equal to a parent's ; no care so circumspect ; no affection so assiduously tender. “ It is better,” say the Scriptures, “ to go to the house of mourning

“mourning, than to the house of
“feasting.” And I called to console
this family of mourners : but I did
not, as I expected, find them so over-
whelmed in affliction : they wept, it
is true, on the sight of their father’s
friend, a friend for whom he had
shewn so much respect. The widow also
wept, but inured to disappointments,
her tears soon ceased to flow, as if the
few remaining drops which fell from
her eyes were all the fountain of
her affliction was possessed of, and she
seemed resigned, as “patience on a
monument smiling at grief ;” and
“the ministering angel of mercy”
recompenced this religious resigna-
tion, by raising a god-like temper
in some opulent relations, who
protected and provided for the dear
pledges

pledges of her lost love; and as by those friends all her cares were anticipated, and her dread apprehensions, for the protection of her children, done away; her consolation was in the confidence of her departed husband being soon restored to her, in the mansions of an uninterrupted and eternal felicity, and she lived but a little while.

COMPARE your sorrow to that which must have been ever felt by a family thus left; and yet you see Providence effects all things for wise purposes, and has, in this instance, set forth examples of beneficence for others to imitate; and to exemplify to the world the tender mercy of God, who careth for his servants, and protecteth the innocent and unwary.

“ Never

“ Never saw I the righteous forsaken,

“ Nor his seed begging their bread.”

I HAVE also lost another friend, the mother of a young gentleman with whom I was at college.

THERE is something singular in her history, and I will give it you. She was early married to a man in trade, who behaved to her with less kindness than a woman of her sensibility could submit to, though she was of a lively temper, and of a most forgiving disposition. Their trade was that of bookselling; and having a taste for reading, a ready wit, and an affability of manners, she attracted the attention and regard of the first people of both sexes in the fashionable town where

where she resided; especially as she was infinitely above the little and malevolent meannesses which usually subsist in small towns, particularly in the middle and lowest orders of existence. The notice she gained was however (though profitable, perhaps, in the line of business) the source of many afflictions to herself and family; for the surly temper of her husband could not look upon it without a low suspicion, which at length ripened into a settled jealousy; even to such an intolerance was it carried, as rendered it unsafe for her to live longer with him; and she privately eloped, complained to a court of justice of his brutal behaviour, and obtained a separation from him.

JEALOUSY,

JEALOUSY, whatever may be its source, is not only a curse to those who are the innocent cause of it (and her innocence, I believe, was indisputable with all *mankind*, except her husband) but to those likewise who are infested with it. It is a vulgar passion, unbecoming the dignity of man, and renders him contemptible where he wishes to be most especially respectable.

WHENEVER you see a jealous man, you should look upon him as the most unsafe animal upon the face of the earth; he will beguile you into a belief of his good opinion of you; he will intrust you with secrets that he has dealt out to whoever would attend to them, over and over again: perhaps he will go so far

far as to talk of his wife's virtues, accomplishments, and engaging disposition ; for a jealous man communicates all he knows ; and here he will stop for a while, as if in a transport of thought, full as wild and extravagant, as a lad in love with his partner at a dancing school : his ecstasy however does not last quite so long, for he suddenly recollects (like a madman, when you touch the tender fibre, the foreness of which is the cause of his complaint) that his endearments have attracted the admiration of others, who, perhaps, he is conscious have attractions superior to himself. He then, as it were, shrinks in thought to a comparative nothingness, which generates envy, and he will begin to insinuate something disrespectful of every

every person with whom he has seen his wife accidentally exchanging the common civilities of their respective stations in life. He will endeavour to persuade you, that the object of his particular suspicion is a man of the vilest principles, and will paint some little levities of his conduct in the deepest colours, which can form the complexion of an artful deceiver. In short, he will make a monster of a man, whose external appearance has every thing to recommend it; and even this he will call a plausibility, which renders him more difficult to be found out. "For a man may smile and smile and be a villain." However he trusts that his wife is yet innocent: though he will—he must—since you are so indulgent to attend to him,

tell you a little anecdote respecting her, and the man just alluded to, and request the favour of your opinion on the subject.

“ Soon after we were married he
“ came to visit us; for you must know
“ I have long been acquainted with
“ him: and but for his——I won't say
“ what among the women, I do not
“ believe there is a better man; but
“ in this he is the very devil. I wish
“ he was dead, and if he does not
“ look to himself, and become a little
“ more circumspect in his conduct,
“ I will blow his brains out: how-
“ ever, you know, it would have
“ looked odd, as being an acquaint-
“ ance of so long a standing, if I had
“ not invited him to our house and
“ received

“ received him civilly ; but I had rea-
 “ son to repent that I was so conform-
 “ able to etiquette, or any such ridi-
 “ culous custom, as receiving a man,
 “ whom I knew, from the attention
 “ that the women of every denomina-
 “ tion pay to him whenever he meets
 “ with them, to be resistless ; besides,
 “ I have been with him myself to
 “ several of the finest women in keep-
 “ ing in town. Why, my lord ——’s
 “ mistress was discarded entirely upon
 “ his account. These rascals are dis-
 “ turbers of domestic quiet wherever
 “ they come. But to my purpose, he
 “ had not been with us more than two
 “ days ere I caught him in my saloon,
 “ yes, I caught him pulling my wife’s
 “ —— as sure as can be, it’s true—You
 “ will naturally startle with astonish-
 L 2 “ ment ;

“ ment—but he really was pulling on
“ her gloves.

“ You may laugh, my good friend,
“ but such liberties are extremely
“ indecent, and we were not in so
“ great a hurry to go out, but if
“ she wanted the gloves drawing on,
“ she might have waited until I came
“ into the room to have done it; she
“ was very artful, however;—When
“ a woman begins to waver in her
“ affections, she becomes more and
“ more cunning, it is next to an im-
“ possibility to find her out;—she
“ put out her *hand*, and said, look,
“ my dear, how tight these gloves
“ are, I believe I shall be obliged
“ to take them off again, for really
“ they hurt me, especially upon this
“ finger

“ finger ; feel how they have drawn
 “ up my ring ; the end of it begins
 “ to be benumbed ; I declare the
 “ circulation is stopped, and I will
 “ have them off again.

“ WAs not that too bad now ? Was
 “ it not too bad ? I leave you to
 “ judge of it—However with all their
 “ cunning, I did not let them see
 “ my thoughts, and only said, why
 “ did you not buy a larger pair. But
 “ of late their behaviour is grown
 “ intolerable, he laughs and talks
 “ with her, with ten times the famili-
 “ arity I ever did, but I shall find
 “ them out, and if I do—but no
 “ matter—no matter. Now my good,
 “ my best friend, I see you pity
 “ me ;—for he will tell you a thou-

“fand stories, every one of which
“may be equally ridiculous, but
“altogether may impose upon cre-
“dulity—and I will tell you a scheme
“which I think cannot fail making
“a full discovery, if you will have the
“goodness to assist me in the exe-
“cution of it. I will feign a neces-
“sity of going on some unforeseen
“business from home, and leave you
“with my wife. This villain we
“expect to see every day (it may be
“he will be here to-morrow) and
“before you he will be less cautious
“than when I am present: now
“before you mark all their looks
“and motions, and I wish, if it will
“not be too much trouble, that
“you will indulge me by making
“some excuse to go to his room;
“you

“ you can say you are ill, or any thing,
 “ if you find him in it, but that’s
 “ impossible, and then all will be
 “ out, and I shall be perfectly easy.”

To enter into such a project, upon any such mean suspicions, even for an own brother, would be to be equally vile with the suggester of it, and as full of folly; for should the suspected person have perceived his jealousy, and for the peace of an injured wife, give up his acquaintance, your assiduity to serve him would bring you under the same suspicion, which none but men, devoid of principle, would really hazard, as it generally fares with friends as it does with a wife; for a jealous man is always the most suspicious of those that ap-

pear most amiable in his eyes, from a consciousness of not being equal to, or not possessed of, a mind which can merit the real respect of those that are praise-worthy.

BUT how extreme is the folly of jealousy, since no honest man, no Gentleman that has a spark of honour in his composition, will ever insult a woman with overtures indicative of an unlawful passion, unless she first betrays a wanton inclination ; and actuated by that there needs neither stratagem to seduce, nor contrivance to find her out, for she will soon expose herself. When, to appear jealous, without the most substantial evidence, is but to advertise to the libertine a probable opportunity
of

of gratifying his desires, or an invitation, which shall subject a virtuous woman to the insults of every rake she meets with.

MRS. S——'s situation was considered by her relations with so much pity, and her conduct was so highly undeserving of the treatment she received, (for she really loved her husband)—that they persuaded her to take the steps she did to rescue herself from his barbarous behaviour, as jealousy is frequently so full of phrensy, as not to be appeased, but either in the blood of the suspected or in desperate suicide.

ONE of her relations was so apprehensive of this, and fearful, that in consequence of her affection for her husband.

husband, she might (notwithstanding what had occasioned their separation, forgive and return into the danger she had escaped, and) unite with her husband again, that he inserted a clause in his will wherein he left her a handsome independency : but that if she again cohabited, or in any respect corresponded, with her husband, the said annuity should lapse to the trustees he had appointed for the payment of it. However political it might be in the design, there was certainly something in the effect, which is contrary to what forgiveness in consequence of what true repentance could wish ; and perhaps that, which was intended as a preservative from, was the author of all the unhappiness which afterwards befel the family. Mr. S—— frequently

quently wrote to his wife letters couched in the sincerest terms of penitence, to which she was bound to make no reply; he entreated that he might see her; but the prudence of securing her income forbad it. They had a son whom they both dearly loved, and who had duty, affection, sensibility,—nay, there was nothing wanting in him to recommend him to their best regards. He was educated by his father at Eton, afterwards sent to Oxford and entered as a student in Lincoln's Inn, and he had a capacity for receiving, and a mind worthy of so excellent an education, which, however, was but ill at ease, when it reflected upon the situation of his parents whom he so much revered, and whom, though he wished them

them to be reunited, according to their desires, yet he could not possibly advise to such a step, from a necessary regard to worldly convenience; all parties were alike unsettled; the father, either from a state of mind which made him inattentive to his concerns, or from a diminution in trade, effected by a common resentment for his behaviour to his wife, failed in business. This check to the prospects of the son, who had every reason to suppose his father in such circumstances as to be able to support him in the line of his intended profession, and from a sincere concern for his father's distressed situation, sunk into a despondency.

TIME at length gave him better spirits, but as it was in no respect
convenient

convenient to go on in his intention of being called to the bar ; and having taken the degree of master of arts, he accepted of a nomination to a small curacy, and entered into holy orders ; the difference of his present situation from that, which he had rationally expected to have been in, a father in poverty, and a mother willing, but unable to do much for him out of an annuity which she had anticipated to defray some expences consequent on his education, which, from his father's failure were left unpaid, and some bills remaining undischarged, which he had the inclination but not the power to pay ; a combination of circumstances which preyed heavy upon his mind, and he relapsed again into a profound melancholy. This sorrowful situation of
her

her son, together with her own difficulties, not to mention the distresses of her husband, made her indifferent as to life, and she gave way to habits which soon destroyed her.

Exquisite sensibility is frequently an exquisite torturer.

Not knowing at present of any method of conveying this letter to you, I shall as opportunity occurs sit down to write, and not close my packet until it is time to dispatch it, for I never employ my time more pleasantly than in this kind of conversation with you, except it be when I have the happiness of receiving your reply.

IN

IN speaking upon deaths, I only mention such as happen within my recollection, that those which surround you may have no improper effect on your spirits; as they will be more frequent from the fatigues and devastations of war among your acquaintance than they can be among mine, where nothing, thank God, is known of it but at a distance; as a sound from region to region, which is generally heard with indifference until it is heard no more; except where friends and favourites fall, and let them die where they may, they will operate according to the degrees and nature of the affection of those that love them. I shall therefore mention a death of an acquaintance or two, but of too superior rank for me to call

call friends or intimates, which have not only been considered as a loss to the circle of their own societies, but of the county at large. In mentioning Mr. A—— of A——, you will, from a general knowledge of his principles, and your own acquaintance with mine, conclude, that I am going to speak partially of him. I hope, however, that you believe, that though a man may have more of my confidence in matters belonging to religion and politics, if in both he is of my way of thinking, I am neither so prejudiced as to believe him infallible, nor to think those who act in opposition to my tenets either devoid of principle or of virtue. God forbid, that so unchristian like a thought should be entertained upon my mind. I may, however,

however, be allowed, without the imputation of prejudice to say, that he was too steady to his principles for any man to doubt his integrity, especially as he had a soul infinitely above sinister intentions, and ideas too noble to act in any respect in contradiction to what he thought.

WHEN I was first ordained, it was to the curacy of the parish in which was his family mansion, and of which he was joint patron with the incumbent. I had the honour of an early introduction to him, but had been previously impressed with a belief, that he was a man of extravagant *haut* and family pride. Under this apprehension, I had some uneasiness whether my behaviour might not be

inadvertently such as might displease him, having been much accustomed to the freedom of speech, and not very ceremonious, though always so civil, if two eggs were for supper, and a companion insisted upon having one in particular, and that I should have the other, as not to fret myself or insist to the contrary in a matter of so trifling a concern ; that is, I would not stuff my importance in the compass of an egg-shell. However, I believe, under these impressions I behaved with more than my usual formality ; and as I am not a man of a very agile construction, I made some very awkward bows and scrapes more than I ever did before in my life, and in quantity most ridiculously profuse. There might be something in the dignity of
his

his address, which might make me strive to out-do it. I have, however, felt myself very silly ever since; for he was chaste, and I was fulsome in the manœuvring of my manners. He was too generous to take notice of it, and as the man, who is not himself, generally rushes from one extreme to another, so I was highly pleased at that time, in supposing that I had shewn myself the very pink of politeness; that I assumed what I thought an easy *degagé* attitude, lounged with a rude indifference, and talked with a wonderful familiarity; for, as I had out-done him in address, I supposed I could out-do him in importance: any ill-tempered man would have ridiculed my *graces*, and a proud man would have known no more of me.

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But

But this was not the case with Mr. A——, he took as little notice of my *airs* of importance as he had paid to my *airs* of gesticulation. He knew too well that new robes* and new professions too commonly give struts of assurance to those that assume them. Were I to continue to speak longer of his politeness and affability, I should do injustice to what I have to say of his heart and understanding: with respect to the first, no better testimony can be given of it, than to say that he was sincerely polite; and if he was not so to all, it was because they had done something deserving of his negligence: and, as the curate of the parish,

* May not my readers say that the same may be said of new authors, and the *novus homo* of every distinction.

from whose conduct the ignorant might look for example, he continued to pay every degree of respect whilst I continued in the curacy, and conversed, without seeming to give advice, with a tender familiarity, which must be advantageous to all whom he honoured with his attention, of whatever denomination they might be. His understanding and judgment had always the convincing force of reason to recommend them, and to engage Gentlemen, more known to the world for wisdom, to rely upon them; but he was of too diffident a disposition, though once in parliament, to display them publicly. You may suppose, that what I say is *mere* panegyric; but his death on these accounts is not only sincerely lamented by a large number

of the most distinguished characters in the county, but intrinsically felt by his neighbours ; to the deserving among whom he was the kindest of friends, and to the poor promiscuously a protector and father. His children were too young to be much affected at his death, but there were of his intimate acquaintance and more distant relations who bore the strongest testimony of affliction, as if they sorrowed both for their own and the loss which his posterity must experience in the benefit of so excellent an example ; and one, whose soul seemed to be in perfect union with his own, survived him but a short while, and, like the souls of Saul and Jonathan whilst living, they were the same, and in death they were not divided.

MR.

MR. C—ly L—gh, in the prime and vigour of his life, was deprived of it. His acquaintance were not numerous, though his virtues rendered him generally known and respected; but he was revered by his *chosen* friends, notwithstanding, like his intimate acquaintance Mr. A—, he was of a diffident disposition: his conduct in life was sincere, but candid; honest, but generous; his sentiments, like his remarks, were strong and pointed, and yet elegantly refined; his carriage was noble, and yet his behaviour to all who knew, or belonged to, or depended upon him, or were in need of his assistance, was humanely benevolent. A mother, to whom he was invariably dutiful, and a brother, whose interests and affec-

tions were his own, can never obliterate from their remembrance his virtues and endearments; but in their earthly dissolution the world at large still loudly echoes the praises of those Gentlemen: and in the quick transition of ideas, no sooner is one spoken of than the other is recollected.

My acquaintance with Mr. C——
L—— was but of a short standing, only whilst we were at the University; and it was then I discovered the bent and stability of his disposition, which was neither to be biaſſed by caprice nor prejudice, which I mention not to you, with a view of proving, that I have the gift of prophecy, in that his general character justified my opinion of him, but as a proof of
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the maxim, that early habits of virtue are as little liable to be eradicated as those of vice. My next letter will, I trust, be of a different complexion to this; but, being on the gloomy subject of death, I could not help, especially, as you introduced the subject, dwelling upon the merits of several friends by whom I have been well treated, and whom I had so much reason to respect.

L E T T E R XI.

I DID not inform you of my having been in Ireland, from an apprehension that you might make inquiries, as you now have done, which it is not in my power to answer. For the major part of the time I was very ill, and but for the great care taken of me by the family at Bullock, who, as soon as they knew of my arrival in Dublin, immediately invited me to make my residence with them, or I believe I should have been among the dead, and by this time had no more in remembrance.

W H E T H E R

WHETHER to speak first of Mr. Watson and his family, or give you a characteristic opinion of the nation at large, I should, if I were writing for public inspection, be at a loss; but this I am certain of, his innate affection for the customs and people of that country, though an extract of a native of this, is so ardent, that he would relinquish even the timely expressions of gratitude to himself, that a proper respect to his dear Ireland may never be omitted. However, as with you I can freely indulge my own feelings; as he is uppermost in my regards, I shall introduce you to him. I wish I could do it with as great a propriety of manners as he introduced me to his numerous acquaintance, who were of the first quality

quality and consequence in the kingdom, and who, on his account, paid me every mark of attention and respect that my sickly situation would admit of. Mr. and Mrs. Watson are now very old people, but have a vivacity of temper which makes them suitable company for lively youth. They have both seen a great deal of fashionable life, and have drawn such maxims from it, as make them at once entertaining and instructive. They now indeed do not stir much from home, but receive, as usual, in their snug retreat, all that are worthy, whether distinguished by birth, genius, or good actions; and whoever are heard to bear contrary characters, however dignified their stations, seldom, without great effrontery, call
upon

upon them twice, as the Madam acts as a kind of mirror to her acquaintance, shews them to themselves what they really are; and the master, if he does not rebuke with the authority, he admonishes with the tenderness of a father, those who act in any respect unbecoming of themselves, which the incorrigible can never endure. But he has a balm for every sore, and a consolation for every one who is afflicted: poverty never goes murmuring from his door; for, like the Samaritan, he distributes his favours to the sick and needy with an indifference as to sect or nation. He is an experienced philosopher, and, from the sorrows he has survived, he knows both how to pity, whilst he sets forth an example of resignation to all who labour under afflictions.

MR.

MR. and Mrs. Watson were once blessed with a son and daughter; the lady died young, and the son was killed by an unprovoked blow from a villain, when he was coming forth to the world with as many virtues, as amiable a disposition, and as strong a share of good sense, as ever fell to the lot of one man.

IT was a severe shock to every one who knew him by name; his dearest relations were much to be pitied, and altogether called loudly for vengeance. The murderer was not executed, though condemned, because it was supposed there was no personal intention to kill; he was recommended therefore as an object of royal mercy, on condition that he was transported
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from the kingdom: but Providence, which can discriminate with unerring wisdom, suffers not the murderer to escape; and as it were for a disobedience of the mandate, which requires blood for blood, the transport was cast away, the ship was lost, and all its crew perished, and, if I am not mistaken, within sight of the shore on which the mansion of Mr. Watson stands: an excellent lesson to teach us a due submission to the will of heaven. The hospitality at Bullock is altogether in the stile of the ancient barons, a hearty welcome to a cheerful board; the due civilities, without the ceremonies of the times, are what you are entertained with, and it is your own fault if you restrain yourself from what, within

within the bounds of propriety, will please you. The whole of the family are of the same temper in their treatment of friends and strangers, which consist of Mrs. Watson's sister and Miss Watson, their relation and adopted daughter. I was in the family near three months; nor shall I ever regret leaving one with half as much pain as I experienced in leaving this. But I am now to give you my opinion of the people in general; and I shall divide them into two different classes, the people of family and their tenantry: for, as it is near a century behind England in arts and sciences, the mechanics, comparatively speaking, are very few to what they are in this kingdom.

WITH

WITH respect to the former, I thought their dispositions were something between the French and the English, sprightly, but not phlegmatic; courteous, but sincere; neither the Monsieur *tout alamode*, nor yet the blustering John: a good natured hospitable people; and I always consider good nature as the only soil that can bring forth genuine good breeding; for good nature will neither insult nor injure any thing or any body. It is true, they have an high estimation of national honour and bravery; but where is there a native of any nation that is not more or less impregnated with the same opinion? Perhaps it may be urged, that there is an individual pride, which makes them extremely tenacious of

the respect which they conceive to be their due; but if it is considered that the lines of distinction and good manners are, among people in the first ranks, marked so plainly, that a fool only will break through them, and then they merit the chastisement of fools. It is not so in those mixed societies whence people from an humble level have arisen into notice by wealth obtained by industry, and have not grown in manners so high as they have in money; for the trespassers of such a sort being submitted to chastisements of the like kind would in England lead to a confusion that would kindle a perpetual dissension in every trading situation in life. A moneyed man, in England, must have his vulgarisms, because you frequently find
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that his omissions of etiquette are not his faults, for he never was educated in the principles of politeness; and his industry and honesty, through which he has secured to himself an independency, will apologize for his abruptness or flat contradictions. However, it ill becomes a man who is born and educated as a gentleman, even to adopt the low bred language of those who never were instructed: a true gentleman of any country will always distinguish himself as such in every place that he goes into, and with such there never can be a dispute about good manners.

WERE we to judge of the Irish that reside in England, as the characteristic of that people at large, we should

do them an extreme injustice, even as much as they would do to us; for it cannot be supposed that the best, or even the mediocrity of people of any country, will transport themselves without essential reasons from their native soil, their dearest friends and connections; and therefore it may be presumed, that in general the real reasons are not very creditable: but the inference must be, that they are no less creditable in the country they have left, than in the country flown to for it.

WITH respect to the lower class of the people, they are extremely indigent, the tenantry being in no better a situation, scarcely, than under a feudal government; for having no manufactures, except indeed those of linen, but what
are

are in their infancy, the produce of their lands are less profitable; and, having no poor taxes, their poor are beyond description infinitely more shocking to look upon than the poor of England, where in every manufacturing district a poor man grows rich according to the number of his children.

THIS being known to the intelligent, it is not to be wondered that every effort is used to introduce our manufactories into that kingdom, and therefore we should look upon them with a jealous eye. The interests of Ireland are or should be the interests of England, and *vice versa*; for the constitution of Ireland is the same;

the laws, except such as are instituted for temporary or local causes, are the same, and the same king governs that with the same authority as he rules over this nation. Every convenience, therefore, should be mutual, and every burden proportionate for the maintenance of government. The people of Ireland have certainly suffered many illiberal oppressions, but the eyes of dispassion, I trust, are opening, and when the mist is entirely cleared, an emancipation will take place, not of necessity, but from an honest impartiality in the councils of this kingdom; and it is seriously to be wished, that it may be an *union* which shall be indissoluble. The present spirit of military association in that, and now in this kingdom, is the only thing likely
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to prevent it; it is a spirit more easily inflamed than controlled; and however, or by what pretences it is excited, it cannot be denied that disciplined troops, collected independent of government, may be turned against it, when grievances, whether supposed or real, arise from the burdens which their wants are necessitated to impose.

SOLDIERY is a profession, and should be entered upon as such, without any view but to the service of the king and the general good of the community: but what an opportunity is opened for party or faction to train themselves in arms, under a pretence of loyalty and defence in case of an invasion. Did not Lord Shelburne,

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who

who has given countenance to the scheme, see the ill effects which might ensue? If he did not, he must now be convinced of it, as the associators in general are of republican principles, and the true friends to the king raise regiments to be entirely subject to the king and military subordination. If the king wants troops, is it not infinitely more loyal for those who associate, to subscribe to the raising of regiments, and every associator to enlist his man, than as a civil citizen to play at soldier, and lose time which is infinitely more valuable to himself than the price he would have to pay for an entire soldier? If the king cannot have troops wholly at his command sufficient for a national defence, and every purpose requisite

requisite for the maintenance of his dignity in all his dominions, his throne has but a tottering foundation. I am now speaking of the English associations: the Irish are professedly determined to push matters to a civil war, unless particular conditions are complied with; and those of this kingdom, if they are brought to any height will have their conditions, the first of which will be a republican establishment.

A citizen foldier is an uncertain subject.

WITH respect to the manufactories of the two nations, whatever Ireland may hope for, we have nothing to fear, for they neither can be transplanted, nor will they grow like mushrooms; besides,

besides, the essential article of coal, the vast quantity of people necessary to complete most articles of our manufactories, every one of which must have an idea of every part, and yet be only employed in a particular department of a manufactory, are not easily collected by a schemer, nor will they be persuaded to emigrate from situations where they have been born and bred, and leave their natural connections ; circumstances which weigh greatly with the common people, and especially, as it is evident, if we may judge from the inhabitants of our own neighbourhood, where almost every low mechanic is so happy by industry, as to obtain an early independency, and to build himself a house or cottage which he can call his own. Will such men
part

part with the first fruits of their industry, and remove with their families into a new situation, to new connections, and to encounter certain inconveniences consequent on a removal? The dissipated, the idle, and the worthless, will roam from clime to clime, and project such plans as may alarm the world; but being from nature dissipated and idle, they will accordingly remain so, and their executions will be worthless. It is industry alone which brings manufactories to perfection, and that industry with which men are trained from childhood. An industrious people must always be successful, and lazy people poor: but were the Irish to become industrious, if we lose not
our

our industry, we lose nothing by theirs.

As to the articles of importation for manufacturers and manufactories exported, there should not be a difference as to duties, it is not reasonable that there should; but on the contrary, a reciprocity of advantages and disadvantages should belong to each nation. The true interest of Ireland is to be in union with England; for, according to the states of Europe, it is too small to stand alone: it would have no appendages to support it that are constitutional, or in any respect agreeable to the genius of the people; whereas it now subsists under a government which is neither loose nor arbitrary; and, on the other hand,
more

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more wealthy it grows, the more substantial is the seat of government, which, wherever it is placed, must necessarily have the advantages in point of riches and grandeur.

LETTER

L E T T E R XII.

THE different changes of ministration which have happened within a very little while is extraordinary.

NOTWITHSTANDING the failure of our just expectations in America, Lord North's administration was so conformable to the general ideas of the people, that he lost no popularity in being discarded; his friends thought well of him. I will venture to say, there was not a convert from those principles which supported him in
consequence

consequence of his being turned out. A uniformity of conduct will establish a lasting credit; and it is very certain, that America is lost by his opponents in parliament, who threw every possible obstacle in the way of government to prevent a conquest, and not from the want of the wisdom or experience of his administration. The Marquis of Rockingham's administration would soon have received its death wound if he had not died. It is not in the nature of things that a jealousy shall not soon arise between the king and ministers, who have thwarted him even to the loss of an extensive empire. Men are generally true to their principles, whether good or bad; and therefore, if the language made use of to obtain their situations

was

was the language of principle, their hearts can never be for the interests of the king: however my Lord North, from that natural timidity with which all his designs were put into execution, even to the appointing of his political enemies to the first commands, at length joined them to the loss of every good and honest man's opinion, whether at court or in the country. He pleaded the necessity of a coalition for the preservation of his country; but the plea was as admissible as that he should be drowned to save him from being burnt to death; or like salts and acids, effect a neutral mixture: it must have been so, but Lord North changed his principles; and he who talked so loudly in the defence of royal prerogative,

rogative, has *mala fide* done his endeavour to destroy one of its best props, and voted for a delegation of the executive authority of the king over his Indian territories to commissioners of their motley complexion; in short, that very Lord North, whom every body believed once to be of a Tarquin principle, is proved a whig in practice. This business was carried on with a rapidity, that could scarcely admit of a check; the bill was carried through the House of Commons, and nearly passed the Lords, when Earl Temple advertised his majesty of the purport of it, and the eyes of the whole community were opened to the plot, which, if carried into execution, would in the end have caused a revolution; as those

commissioners were to have been vested with a controul over all the riches of India, and could convert them to such uses as they thought proper. The end of the struggle has been a dissolution of parliament, and Mr. Pitt is at the head of administration. But this is a kind of coalition which does not appear to me likely, to be *lasting* ; for he now acts as the *premier* of those friends, which were the supporters of Lord North's administration ; and, if we may judge of his by the principles of his father, the late Earl of Chatham, there is as little of the affection for monarchy, as can, for the minister of a king, be dispensed *with* : however necessity has no law ; and as the preservation of royal authority was in the above instance in consequence

consequence of his relation Lord Temple, and as he has defended the principle, my prognostication, as to the event, may prove wrong. There is the greatest prospect, however, of a lasting administration, where there appears no difference of sentiment in those that compose it. And had not Lord North coalesced with Mr. Fox, who is said to be the father of the India bill, he would, in all probability, have now been at the head of the administration.

IT is a very long time since we heard from you. Surely all is well, and as no doubt your regiment will be ordered home, I hope we shall not be long ere we see you.

L E T T E R XIII.

YOUR long looked for, and almost despaired of letter, is arrived at last. Good God! what must you not have suffered in so long and loathsome a prison, and with what barbarity have you been treated!

THE papers have given various accounts of the army belonging to general Matthews; but being uncertain by whom your regiment was commanded, they were not so alarming to us as they otherwise would have been, though

though we had dreadful apprehensions about your safety, in consequence of nearly a two years silence : however, the happiness to hear of your health, and intention to return home, amply compensates for all our painful anxieties.

THE daily promotions, which take place in your regiment must be disadvantageous to you, and an ill requital of such a dangerous service as you have experienced ; I mean the vacancies which are filled up with gentlemen who have neither encountered the hardships of the war, nor the unwholesomeness of the climate. It is not however for a soldier to complain : he is the servant of the king ; and the caprice or private connections of

a secretary at war, should never make him less zealous or active in the line of his profession, though he may not be distinguished or promoted. It is more honourable to starve than to curry court-favour; and whatever advancement comes only through interest without actions, is *too low*, though lucrative, for a man of spirit to accept. When actions are conspicuously brave, the nation is too generous, and the king too good, not to reward accordingly.

I HAVE only mentioned the promotions, that you may neither be surprised nor betrayed into that general kind of censure of the conduct of men in office, which officers, who are not favourites, are so full of; as I
am

am persuaded there is no task so difficult as to satisfy even the deserving, in the departments of public business. The example of a Lacedemonian, in suits for promotion, if immutable in nature, is worthy of notice, and it is bravery to follow it. When he was excluded the election of the three hundred brave men, whom his country had sent to the Streights of Thermopylæ, returned to his house well satisfied; and rejoiced that there were in Sparta that number of citizens of greater worth than himself.

COMPLAINTS always ruin credit, and rather excite a passion to offend than to comfort us. When you are discontented, conceal it as much as possible; for though it be commonly

said that to communicate one's misfortune is a kind of remedy for it, yet there is more honour in not telling it at all, as it is a sign of resolution and courage. I shall write no more till I hear of your arrival in England, to which I wish you a quick and pleasant voyage.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIV.

YOUR narrative of the treatment of the prisoners taken by Tippou Saib, is a most distressing story indeed; and though some of the circumstances have been published, as they are not generally known, they will not be unacceptable, if they appear as an Appendix to the letters I am about to bring forth to the world; and therefore I shall be obliged if you will permit me to send them to the press.

I am, DEAR BROTHER,

Yours most affectionately.

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N A R R A T I V E

OF THE TREATMENT OF THE

ENGLISH PRISONERS

TAKEN AT BEDANORE.

THE siege of Bedanore having lasted seventeen days, a cessation of arms took place on the twenty-fourth of April, 1783, and on the twenty-sixth of the same month, brigadier general Matthews, commander in chief of the forces on the western side of India, called a council of war, which

which (after deliberating on the situation of affairs) came to a resolution of capitulating on the following terms, viz. “ That the garrison should march
 “ out of the fort with the honours of
 “ war, and pile. their arms on the
 “ glacis: that all public stores should
 “ be left in the fort: that all prisoners
 “ taken during the siege should be
 “ delivered up: that after being joined
 “ by the garrisons of Cowladroog, and
 “ Ananpore, (which were included in
 “ these articles) the whole should
 “ have full liberty to march unmolested,
 “ with all their private property to Sadaahayur, from thence
 “ to embark for Bombay: that the
 “ nabob, Tippou Sultan Bahauder,
 “ should furnish a guard to march
 “ with the English troops for their
 “ protection

“ protection through the country,
“ which guard should be immediately
“ under the command of general Mat-
“ thews; and that the nabob Tippou
“ should furnish the troops with a
“ plentiful bazar, and proper conve-
“ niences for the accommodation of
“ the sick and wounded during their
“ march to Sadashayur: that a guard
“ of one hundred men (seapoys) from
“ the garrison of Bedanore, with their
“ arms, accoutrements, &c. and thirty-
“ six rounds of ammunition to attend
“ the general as his body guard; and
“ that the nabob, Tippou Sultan Ba-
“ hauder, for the performance of the
“ articles on his part, should deliver
“ two hostages, prior to the garrisons
“ marching out of the fort.”

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THE capitulation being signed, the hostages received, and every preparation for the sick and wounded made, the garrison marched out of the fort with the honours of war, on the twenty-eight of April, 1783; and, after piling their arms on the glacis, were conducted by a strong body of the enemy to a plain, about half a mile distant from the town, where the general reluctantly was obliged to encamp, though his intention was to have marched to some farther distance. When the whole arrived, the enemy posted centries on every side, beyond whom no person was permitted to pass. The general called for his body guard, but, to his surprise and mortification, was told, the enemy had deprived them of their arms and ammunition, and had
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used great violence to many of the officers, and that numbers of the wounded had been forced from their dooles, by the bayonets of the inhuman wretches. Captain Facey of the Bombay establishment, with fifty wounded, were detained in the fort till the next morning, along with Mr. Shields assistant surgeon: this gentleman spoke with an English soldier in the nabob's service, who told him not to entertain any hopes of getting away, for that the nabob had employed men ever since his arrival before Bedanore, in making irons for the garrison; he added, that the garrison in which he was taken, notwithstanding they capitulated, were put in irons, and treated in the most shameful manner. Early the next morning

morning, while the troops were preparing to march, the general received a message from the nabob, desiring to see him along with captains Eames and Lendrum of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Charles Stewart the pay-master: they went in a body, and took with them some of the officer's servants, who had been plundered on coming out of the fort, in hopes of recovering the lost property. Soon after their departure, a variety of provisions and other articles arrived in the camp; at the same time, a number of people came to carry away the doolies, out of which they hauled the wounded, seizing those (who a few days before had suffered amputation) by the stumps, and with the greatest violence throwing them on the

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the ground, leaving them in that wretched, painful, and miserable situation, without a hope of assistance: being asked the cause of such barbarous treatment, the brutes replied, they should shortly have an opportunity of punishing us in the same manner. The troops with the greatest impatience waited till five o'clock in the afternoon for the return of the general; when intelligence arrived that he, and the gentlemen who accompanied him, were immediately on their arrival at the Dunbar, without being admitted into the presence of the nabob, made close prisoners. At ten o'clock at night we were alarmed by an additional force of the enemy, when the guards turned out, and posted double sentries round us; their design

was easily seen through, though they endeavoured to lull our suspicions, by telling us, those guards which had been first placed over us were a part of Mahomet Ally's troops, who were going to be relieved in order to be sent to Mangalore.

THE morning following we perceived the enemy had emissaries employed in every part of the camp, to entice our troops to enter into their service. About ten o'clock a message was received from the nabob to know the number of tents wanted; at the same time informing us we were to remain there some time: the tents we refused; but a letter, signed by all the officers, was written to the nabob, requiring him immediately to fulfil

fulfil the terms of capitulation. The letter was sent to him by major Few-tril of the Bombay establishment, who was likewise sent for, together with captain Alston commander of his majesty's troops, and lieutenant Young brigade major to the Bombay troops, but no answer was ever received. Early on the morning of the first of May a report prevailed, that the troops would not long enjoy the possession of their property; the truth of which we shortly after experienced. About ten o'clock the bazar was taken away, the guards ordered under arms, and all the European officers sent for to the place the bazar had been removed from, where we were one by one plundered in the most scandalous and shameful manner of our horses, palan-

P 2 quins,

quins, plate, watches, money and valuables; in short of every article the scoundrels thought worth their consideration; nor did they even hesitate at stripping us naked, and exposing us to the view of all the army; even the women did not experience a less minute examination, but were searched in the same indecent and infamous manner. The European soldiers, black officers and seapoys, as well as all the camp-followers, underwent the like ignominious trial. About four o'clock in the afternoon the black officers, soldiers and seapoys, were marched under a strong guard to Bedanore, leaving the sick and wounded to perish on the ground. A short time after the European officers, with their servants, were conducted to Bedanore, and
closely

closely confined in the stables, which our cavalry had formerly occupied: from the time they began to plunder us, till four o'clock the evening following, we had nothing of any kind to eat, at which time they brought us, and delivered to each person one piee and a feer of the coarsest black rice, which they told us was to be the daily allowance of officers and servants indiscriminately.

ON the fifth of the same month all the servants, except one to each officer, were taken from us.

ON the sixth, the subaltern officers from the garrison of Ananpore were brought prisoners to us; they informed us of their having seen the officers

from Cowladroog, that the garrison of both places were then in irons, and that all the handsome young men, from the soldiers and seapoys, were forcibly taken from amongst their companions, and made slaves of.

On the seventh, arrived lieutenant Muirson of the hundredth regiment, and lieutenants M'Kenzie and Barnwell of the Bombay establishment: the two former gentlemen were taken at Cundapore, and the latter at the commencement of the siege with captain Gothlick of the Bombay establishment, who had the command of a small fort, and gave it up on the approach of the enemy: these gentlemen informed us they had been in irons for some days.

ON this day we wrote a letter, signed by all the officers to lieutenant colonel D'Coffigné commanding officer of the French troops, representing to him the nature of our situation, the nabob's base violation of the conditions on which Bedanore surrendered, as also the shameful treatment we experienced, and requested, in the name of his Britannic majesty and the East India company, that he would use his most strenuous endeavours with the nabob to adhere to the terms of the capitulation ; and, if he in that point failed, that he would obtain a mitigation of our hard usage. This letter we sent by a French officer, who had been taken prisoner by us during the siege ; he came to return thanks for the many civilities he had experienced

from the officers during his confinement. We flattered ourselves with great hopes from this letter, as this gentleman assured us colonel D'Cossigné was much inclined to exert himself in our behalf, and gave his word of honour that he would immediately wait on the colonel, and deliver our letter; but, to our utter astonishment, we never heard more either of the letter, the friendly carrier, or the colonel, or even any one of that polite nation during our stay at Bedanore. The chagrin, we felt on this occasion, added not a little to increase the indisposition of many of the officers, who were daily falling sick of fevers, and other disorders, occasioned by the badness of our food, and the excessive stench that arose from so close a confinement.

finement. The French surgeons did not give us any assistance, and our own surgeons had it not in their power. On this day Dr. Caermichael of the Bombay establishment was sent for by the nabob to visit general Matthews, who he found very much indisposed; the general told him the nabob was endeavouring to intimidate him into a surrender of all the forts in the low country, by threatening to blow him away from a gun. In the evening, the nabob was generous enough to send us a present of thirty-five small fowls to be divided amongst upwards of eighty officers.

ON the eighth in the morning, the captains belonging to the garrisons of Cowladroog and Ananpore, together

ther with captain Gothlick before-mentioned, were brought under a guard to us, and were soon after removed along with the rest of the captains and a few others, who took that name in hopes of meeting with better treatment; these ambitious Gentlemen were ensign Gifford of the hundredth regiment, lieutenants Oliver and Barnwell of the Bombay establishment, and Mr. Check the deputy commissary.

ON the ninth, we were ordered to prepare to march, and were told we should be allowed as much baggage as we ourselves chose to carry, but we soon experienced the falsity of the assertion. They took us out of this place by pairs, linked us together by

by the hands, with irons so rough, that in a few hours after we were thus manacled, very little skin was left on the wrist. We were here a second time plundered, and, if possible, treated more severely than before. Captain Pine and ensign Jenour of the king's troops, and captain Facey, with lieutenants Williamfon, Beard and Lea of the Company's troops, were left in possession of the stable, their wounds not admitting of an immediate removal. When the line of march was formed, and the whole fitted with serviceable heavy irons, they conducted us in this ignominious manner (more like felons going to the gallows, than like British officers) to the camp, a short distance from the town, where we were received with
shouts

shouts of joy; and the better to attest their zeal for the service, the scoundrels would, without reason or provocation, come up and spit in our faces. Lieutenant Alexander M'Donald of the Bombay establishment, was so excessively ill, that he was unable to stand, and requested permission to be left behind, but they positively refused; and the more effectually to prove his indisposition, dragged him along by the heels, and so severely beat him, that his life was despaired of; the wretches then threw him across a bullock, on which he was tied till he came to the place where we halted, (the gentleman to whom he was ironed being obliged to run by the side of the bullock,) which was about two miles from the town of Bedanore.

ON

ON the tenth in the morning about seven o'clock our march commenced, each officer receiving on leaving the ground three piee for the subsistence of the day. We marched about fifteen miles: some of the gentlemen with bleeding green wounds, and others much indisposed, finding themselves fatigued by the intense heat of the sun and the want of food, set down under a tree to rest a little; but the inhuman barbarians beat them in a most unmerciful manner with swords and sticks: nor did those who were perfectly able to march escape, but were driven on with the butts of their firelocks, spit upon, and told, though they had not permission to kill us, they had full liberty to beat us as much as they pleased. Whenever we
approached

approached a town or village, four or five men were advanced in front with horns and tomtoms, that the inhabitants, by their discordant music, might assemble together, and gaze at us as we passed. On this day they told us, we were to be confined in a strong fort called Chittledroog.

WE proceeded in this miserable condition, each day renewing our sufferings, till we arrived at Simoga, a fort on the banks of the river about sixty miles eastward of Bedanore; our daily allowance having been increased to one fanam each per day. As we were to halt a day in this place, we fondly expected some little indulgences, especially for those gentlemen who were sick, but the wretches delighted

delighted in every fresh opportunity of augmenting our afflictions. When we requested some assistance to be given to Mr. West of the Bombay establishment, and to a serjeant of the hundredth and second regiment, who had been struck with the sun, owing to our long and severe marches; they were not content with denying, but exulted in their misery, and laughing, said, they were only drunk, though the one was speechless, and the other raving mad; and they even extended their brutish insults to the lifeless body of lieutenant Waugh of the Bombay establishment, whose death was occasioned by the injuries he had received on the road.

ON the fourteenth, we lost lieutenant Clements of the Bombay establishment

blishment, who, on his departure from Bedanore, was in perfect health; he was likewise struck with the sun, of which he died; and the gentleman to whom he was ironed remained in that disagreeable situation till the morning following; nor could arguments prevail on the unfeeling monsters to separate them. Lieutenant Sutton of the Bombay establishment was seized with the cramp and spasms in his stomach, and by his violent contortions gave great pain to lieutenant Reddie, the gentleman to whom he was hand-cuffed; and who, for unrivetting the irons to prevent his arm being broke, was immediately taken to a tree, and threatened to be hanged, (notwithstanding he had permission from one of the subaltern officers of the escort) for

for which purpose ropes were prepared, and the Jemautdar told us, his orders were to hang every one that attempted to free himself from his irons ; but, on a submissive representation of the matter, and the whole bound for his future good behaviour, he had the choice of being either hanged or flogged ; the latter of which he fixed on, and had it effectually. We again made application for assistance for the sick, and received the following sanguinary reply, mixed with a large share of Eastern abuse :
 “ Let them die, and as you will march
 “ in the morning they will not trouble
 “ you long, and the jackalls will soon
 “ dispose of them after you are gone.”

About ten o'clock at night came on a most violent thunder storm, and,

being in the open air we suffered exceedingly, particularly the indisposed, whose disorders were greatly increased by it: some of the gentlemen, who were troubled with severe fluxes and agues, were much affected with the rain and raw cold wind, and went to the fires which the guard had made after the storm ceased, in order to warm themselves; but they were soon given to understand, that the indulgence was too great for British officers to enjoy, and were instantly beat away with the burning ends of sticks.

WE left this place on the morning of the fifteenth, leaving on the ground the naked bodies of the gentlemen before-mentioned, and after a short
march

march arrived at Hooly-honoor, a fort situated on the eastern banks of a rapid river; we were here, for the first time since our leaving Bedanore, taken under cover. As ensign Cado-gan of the Bombay establishment, who was very much indisposed, was coming into the fort, he received a blow on the head from one of the guard, and died in a short time afterwards, when he, in like manner with the former deceased officers was stripped naked, and in that state thrown on the banks of the river: we requested the liberty of paying our last duty to the corpse, but they would not even permit us to dig a hole for it. As we approached the destined place of confinement, our escort, in some degree, began to relax

in their severity ; whether from a motive of humanity, or being themselves fatigued, is not certainly known : our marches were now not only shorter, but the gentlemen who were unable to walk, had bullocks allowed them on easier terms.

ON the twenty-first of May, 1783, we arrived at Chittledroog, a strong and almost impenetrable fortress, irregularly built on the end of a ridge of rocks, rising in a flat country about one hundred and twenty miles eastward of Bedanore ; we were here led in triumph to a street leading to the Durbar, where we remained for the inhabitants to gaze at till four o'clock in the afternoon, at which time they took from us all the servants, except
one

one to every six gentlemen. They then formed us into two divisions, and marched us to the summit of one of the highest hills, where we were closely confined in two separate houses; on our entering they robbed and plundered us a third time, taking from us those things they did not before think worth their notice, such as knives, razors, pencils, pens and paper; our hand-cuffs were then knocked off, and heavy irons put on our legs which we could scarcely carry. The house, wherein we were confined, consisted of four small dark rooms surrounded by two high walls, one of fifteen, the other of twenty feet high; in the centre was a small area of four yards square, which gave light to the rooms we

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slept

slept in, and was the only place we had to take the air, to wash and cook in, and was made use of on every other occasion.

LATE in the evening, having eat nothing the whole day, they brought us some rice, wood and water, and the next morning they provided us with heavy stones, for the purpose of grinding our rice, which afterwards became our chief employment. About ten o'clock a Bramin came to us, and delivered to each a seer of rice, and two piee, with a sufficiency of wood to cook with; he desired us to be of good cheer, for that the nabob was determined we should at least live well: presently after a bazar came up tolerably well supplied with the worst of every article,

cle, except butchers' meat, which we were not indulged with.

ON the fourth of June we sent our Salam to the Killidaur of the fort, and Jemautdar of the province (Doulat Bhauce) desiring, as it was our king's birth-day, and a custom amongst us to make merry on that occasion, that he would allow us a little meat; although we had not the smallest hopes of profiting by the request, we were very agreeably surpris'd to find his benevolence exceeded our expectations; for, in consequence of the application, we received a small lean sheep, for which we paid extravagantly dear, but it was of very little service to us, who were thirty-six in number: we were for some time at a loss how to

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perform the office of a butcher, particularly the operative part of fleaing without a knife, the difficulty was at last surmounted, a rusty nail presenting itself, which we burnt from a log of wood: the dissection likewise embarrassed us, and no other method than that of tearing it to pieces could we find out; however it afforded us great diversion, and we spent the day as happily as the situation would allow.

ON the eighth, the wood which we had hitherto allowed gratis was stopped, nor would they allow us more till we agreed to pay for it; this additional expence deprived us of half our paltry daily allowance. On this day died Mr. Murphy, assistant surgeon, which being represented to the guard, they

they immediately entered, and stripped the corpse of a clean cloth in which it were wrapped for more decent interment. We requested the Wardee Wollah would give orders for the funeral as soon as possible, as we were fearful the stench might occasion some infectious distemper; but he, instead of complying, told us we must dig a hole in the prison and bury him there. We then represented the offensive inconvenience of such a measure, as well as the impossibility of doing it, not having any tools, to which he replied, "dig with your nails;" however, after many humble intreaties, we gained our point; the corpse was then tied up in a mat, and carried by the servants to the door of the prison; the enemy then tied a rope about its neck, and

and dragged it away. We then made application for medicines for the sick, but were told, the strictest orders had been issued not to supply us with any; that we did not come there to live, and that the nabob would be very glad to hear we were all dead. Those gentlemen who were indisposed, appeared from this circumstance to despond exceedingly, seeing no prospect of recovering except what nature might work.

THUS unhappily situated, we used every means to procure some medicines by stealth, but all in vain; for the sentries, to whom we applied, told us they could not even enter the first gate of the prison, without undergoing a thorough search themselves, and

and that, were they even detected in speaking to us, nothing could save their ears and noses from being cut off.

ON the fifteenth, we were deprived of the bazar, and nothing was brought for sale but salt, chillies, tamarinds and tobacco: and on the twentieth they even took away the salt, chillies and tamarinds, so that we had nothing in the world to subsist on, but rice alone, without any thing to force it down, except hunger and water: and uncertain how this diet might agree with us, many of the gentlemen being sick from absolute want, so that our situation became more deplorable from the idea that the worst was yet to come. Many circumstances led us to think, their
intention

intention was to starve us to death; particularly a conversation which one of our gentlemen (a perfect master of the language) overheard, betwixt two seapoys: the following is as perfect a translation as possible, "It is hard that
" these poor devils should be starved
" to death, because the nabob has been
" repulsed at Mangalore:" the other, sympathizing, said, it would have been less cruel, had he put us all to the sword, when he took us prisoners. This for some time occasioned a sad depression of spirits, insomuch that words cannot possibly do justice to our sufferings. We daily experienced fresh proofs of the tyrannical dispositions of the inhuman enemy; but the reflection of being Britons, and the hope of revenge, in some degree kept

us

us from despair. We now became exceedingly anxious to learn the situation of affairs, for which purpose those gentlemen, who understood the Moorish language, listened alternately every night to the conversation of the guard, and we were frequently gratified with the most plausible accounts of our successes against the nabob. Opportunities of speaking to the sentinels in the night often happened, but they never failed to contradict the discourse we overheard, and always made a point of telling us the most infamous falsehoods. We questioned them concerning our soldiers and seapoys, who were confined in the fort: they told us, the former were treated in like manner with ourselves, and the latter as coolies; that they often
intreated

intreated the soldiers to enter their service, and as an encouragement, told them all the officers had entered: the soldiers only answered, if our officers have entered, we will enter, but let them come to enlist us: when they found that stratagem had no effect, they had recourse to threats; but these were equally ineffectual. This intelligence of the fortitude and resolution of our brave soldiers, added greatly to the lightening of the burden of our own sufferings.

ON the sixth of July died ensign Bateman of the Bombay establishment, whose disorder we were unacquainted with, but supposed it proceeded from melancholy; we used every argument we could think of to prevail on the
Wordee

Wordee Wollah to release him from his fetters ; but always found they were better disposed to do us an ill office, than an act of humanity, and he died in his irons, much lamented by all in the prison.

ON the seventh of August, we were told by the sentries, that a Maratta army, with a detachment of English troops, were approaching Chittledroog, and as we generally gave credit to a favourable report, we readily believed this ; and more particularly so, from the circumstance of some of the principal men belonging to government, coming up to inquire if any of us understood the nature of mortars, or how to cut fuzees, but we all disclaimed having
any

any knowledge of the matter. We were then asked, if any of us chose to enter the service of the nabob, and how infinitely better a command in his army would be to dying in prison : they likewise offered immense sums to encourage us ; but we rejected all their offers with disdain, and treated them with the contempt they deserved. Though we did not much experience the excessive heat of the sun, as we never saw it but in its meridian, we severely felt the effects of the fires and smoke, which naturally filled our dungeons with dirt, and gave existence to a most amazing number of bugs, fleas, lice, flies, and every kind of vermin ; we were likewise very much troubled with rats, but as we eat them, it counter-

counterbalanced the plague they gave us. Our beds were so very homely, that we had no inducement to sleep, but when absolute fatigue required it, and we then lay down on the bare ground, with a stone under our heads for a pillow.

On the twenty-seventh, to our great surprise, our daily allowance was augmented to three piee each; and we were informed, that a cessation of arms had taken place between the East India Company, and Tippou Sultan Bahauder; that peace was actually on foot, and that the Jemautdar would send up the Burrah Mire to acquaint us. We waited impatiently for a confirmation of this joyful news; and about five o'clock in the afternoon

the Mire arrived, and in a formal manner told us, that peace was concluding between the powers before-mentioned ; that in the mean time we should have a bazar, and requested to know our wants. We were deluded into a firm belief of this intelligence for five days ; and on the first of September we were undeceived by the bazar being taken away, and the additional piee struck off : on desiring to know the reason of this sudden change, we were desired to inquire of the mire, so we concluded it was only a pretext calculated to answer some particular purpose.

ON the second of October died Mr. Brown, quarter-master to the hundredth regiment, whose departure was
much

much regretted by all who knew him : he died about two o'clock in the morning, and at day break, to our great astonishment, his legs were nearly devoured by the rats.

ON the fifth, our subsistence was again augmented to three piee; and the day after arrived a bazar, in which was dholl, ghee, sugar, wheat flower, tobacco, massaulaw, limes and vegetables.

ON the twentieth, the Burrah Mire a second time paid us a visit: we were in hopes of some very agreeable intelligence, but he only came to inquire whether any of us understood the method of making flints, paper, or black lead pencils; offering great

rewards to any one who would instruct them in those arts.

ON the fifth of November, we had some very heavy showers of rain, and our houses not being proof against them, we suffered very considerably from the dampness they occasioned. The guard finding themselves much incommoded from the depth of mud in the yard, in a commanding tone, ordered us to clean it; and, on refusing, they assembled in a body for the purpose of obliging us: however, we were determined matters should be carried to the greatest extremity, rather than indulge so unreasonable a request; and when the Wordee Wollah found we persisted, he told us he would try what effect a little more

more starving, with the addition of irons on our hands, might have on us. As we had often experienced the ill disposition of this scoundrel, we began to lament that we had not peaceably scraped the yard with our hands, as that was the only possible means we had of cleaning it. The next morning our fears were not a little increased by the appearance of an additional guard, and a number of the principal people, attended by a few coolies, loaded with hand-cuffs: we well knew the inconvenience of having our hands and legs in irons; and, I believe, there were very few at that time, but who would gladly have cleaned the yard twenty times told, rather than experience it. The bazar being stopped, and the gloomy idea of

starving, doubly ironed in a dungeon, roused us to a resolution of dying in the act of defence rather than suffer it; for depriving us of the use of our hands, was taking from us, not only the power of eating, but of washing and keeping ourselves clean.

THE head Bramin desired those gentlemen, whom the Wordee Wollah had accused of frequent misdemeanors, (mentioning their names) to come to the door to the number of four; they went, but taking care not to go to the outside. The Bramin was much milder than we expected, he urged the impropriety of being obstreperous, and said, was it not for the lenient disposition of Dowlat Baughee, so gross a crime would be punished with death;

death; but that the great goodness of his master had only ordered four to be hand-cuffed, for the better security and regulation of the prison. In as submissive a manner as possible, we pointed out the inconsistency of such an order, and added, we should never think a punishment too severe for a heinous offence, but that we did not then conceive we had been guilty of any fault; and that if he had received orders to put four in irons, we were very ready to undergo the punishment; but requested he would use his endeavours to get us freed, and again supplied with a bazar. He treated us with infinitely more respect than we ever before had experienced; and so mild was his judgment, that he only required

our honours to be peaceable in future ; and without putting any one in irons, he ordered the bazar to be returned to us, and at the same time, ordered the Wordee Wollah to be relieved. Thus we were happily restored to our usual tranquil state.

ON the fourth of December, our servants on their way to draw water, had an opportunity, for the first time, of speaking to the servants attending on the gentlemen of the other house; from whom we had the satisfaction to learn, that they in general enjoyed good health, and had only lost since their entrance lieutenant Paterfon of the hundredth and second regiment, lieutenant Moore of the ninety-eighth, serjeant Dobbings of the hundredth and second,

second, and Dr. Caermichael, lieutenants Dru and Athinlech of the Bombay establishment.

OUR guard was generally relieved every eighth day; so that latterly we became acquainted with all the good and ill-disposed men that composed it, and regulated our conduct accordingly; yet, notwithstanding, at different periods we underwent very severe trials, sometimes even those, whom we thought most our friends, would, without any kind of provocation, treat us with the greatest indignity, by kicking, cuffing, and spitting in our faces; always observing at the same time, to be in a place of security: and we were so much accustomed to this kind of treatment, that

that latterly, a kick or a cuff we could bear with patience.

As we did not experience many instances of their goodness, it would be an injustice not to allow them their merits. On Christmas we had a proof of their charity; on telling them it was one of our holidays, and requesting they would allow us some little indulgences; a man was immediately dispatched to the Jemautdar for permission, who returned shortly after with some sheep, fruit, and other things, which we were obliged to dispense with, the purchase of two sheep depriving us of all our money. The great difficulty of killing and dissecting these animals, urged us to request, if from their
great

great bounty we should be allowed any more, that they would oblige us by sending it up piece-meal. Our treatment at this time was less severe than heretofore; we wanted nothing that our small pittance would allow us to purchase, and meat was permitted to come to the bazar with other articles.

FROM this great alteration in the behaviour of our enemies, and the repeated assurances of peace being negotiating, we were fully persuaded, that the time was at hand, when we should be freed from our shackles, and once more enjoy the happy liberty of Britons.

EARLY in the morning on the twenty-third of March, we were
visited

visited by the Wordee Wollah, who told us, that peace was positively concluded, and that in two or three days we should be taken out of our cells; that he would immediately, to evince the truth of his assertion, go and fetch blacksmiths to take off our irons. The emotions we felt on hearing this joyful, and most welcome news, added to the pleasing reflection of having our legs at liberty, together with the agreeable prospect of once more seeing our friends, is absolutely beyond description: suffice it to say, we shook our chains in transport and rude harmony; and the voice of congratulation was heard to re-echo from every part of the gloomy mansion. About ten o'clock the Wordee Wollah returned with the blacksmiths,

smiths, the sight of whom heightened our joy even to madness. We remained till the twenty-fifth to recover the use of our limbs: we then bid adieu to the jail, and were conducted to an open space of ground, a short distance from it, where, to our great satisfaction, we beheld our brother prisoners that were separated from us on our arrival at Chittle-droog. This, I believe, was the happiest moment of our lives, and so great were the sensations we felt on the occasion, that the pointed bayonets of the enemy could not keep us back; we bore them down at the risque of losing our lives, and ran to embrace our long lost acquaintance with tears of happiness trickling down our faces. So meagre were they with
long

long confinement, and hope deferred, with the addition of sheep-skin clothes and of long beards, our intimates were even unknown to us.

AT the latter part of our confinement, we were allowed to purchase needles and thread, and, as we expected very soon to be released, our chief employment was making up clothes for the march; which consisted of a sheep-skin cap and doublet, and an old shirt converted into a pair of long drawers. About eleven o'clock, we were ordered to proceed below, which summons we joyfully obeyed: we were carried to the Kutchery, and had the felicity of meeting with Messrs. Brunton and Gordon, two officers of the Madras establishment. We
likewise

likewise saw many others of our fellow-sufferers, both soldiers and seapoys, but were not permitted to speak with them.

OUR servants, who had been taken from us, were again restored; and though in irons (as well as the soldiers and seapoys) they were not the worse received. This delightful scene was shortly after very disagreeably varied, by the arrival of several baskets of hand-cuffs, for the purpose of again linking us in pairs; but we forcibly urged our former good behaviour, as well on the march as in the prison, which occasioned eight of the senior officers being summoned before Dowlat Baughee, who received us in the eastern stile, and
treated

treated us like gentlemen. He sat cross-legged on a carpet, resting on a large pillow; and after the usual ceremonies of salaming, we took our seats on the ground in the same cross-legged stile, and had the honour of being served with beetle and chunam. He told us it was the orders of his master the Sultan, to march us through his country in the same manner we arrived at Chittledroog; with this difference, that our daily allowance should be reduced to one piee per day: these circumstances mortified us greatly; he added, as we had ever behaved with great prudence, and if we would give our paroles of honour for the good behaviour of the rest of the gentlemen, as well as for the soldiers and seapoys, the

the gentlemen should have their hands at liberty, but that he could not allow the soldiers and seapoys the same indulgence. This we readily agreed to, and signed a paper to undergo any punishment they chose to inflict, if the terms were violated. We should gladly have adhered to any agreement, for the release of our brave and faithful soldiers, but we could not accomplish it; and, to our great sorrow, the poor fellows were obliged to submit to the yoke.

WE requested him to advance us a little money for our maintenance on the road, and promised that, on our arrival amongst our friends, we would return the sum to the Bucksy, previous to his delivering of us up;

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but he coolly told us, that it would be a breach of the articles of peace; for that our ambassadors had made no provision for us, but had begged the nabob to march us down at as little expence as possible. This circumstance hurt us not a little, as a request of the sort was useless; for it was well known, even to the commissioners, that the nabob would but barely give us as much as would keep us from starving. We remained at the Kutchery till about four o'clock in the afternoon, and were then marched about a mile and a half distant from the town, to a grove of trees, where we halted; and it is natural to suppose, we then assembled to tell our tales of woe. On comparing notes, we found the gentlemen, who were separated from us, were

were treated exactly as we were ; the soldiers much in the same manner, and the seapoys as before-mentioned. A seapoy, who formerly had been in the service at Madrafs, told us, that many of the soldiers as well as seapoys and servants, who had been taken from amongst their companions, and reported dead, were then confined in the fort. This occasioned a representation to the Bucksy, but to no purpose; he told us scornfully, if we could point out a plan of raising the dead, we might take them all with us ; if not, he begged we would not trouble him any more.

ON the twenty-seventh, several parties of Europeans as well as seapoys, from various parts of the

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country

country joined us; and many of them, who had saved a little money by means of swallowing it, seeing their officers in such miserable plight, came to share with them their little all: the acquisition was great, and joyfully received; and we were happy to hear, the soldiers had been infinitely better treated in every other place of confinement, than the officers at Chittledroog. We were likewise told by the soldiers, to the very great credit of the seapoys, that in different prisons, where they had been confined together, the seapoys, out of their daily allowance, had saved a piece a day each, and with it had purchased the Europeans meat; telling them, they well knew the English custom, and that their acceptance of the

the little they could well spare, might be a means of preserving their healths ; and, as they had a sufficiency of rice, which was their general food, it was all they wanted.

ON the twenty-eighth, doolies were provided for the sick, and about nine o'clock our march commenced, and we were guarded by sixty cavalry, and five hundred infantry, under the command of Meer Bucksy. They told us, we were going to Ooscottah, a place about sixteen miles eastward of Bangalore, and about sixty miles distant from the pass into the Carnatic ; at which place we were informed by Dowlat Baughee, all the prisoners were to be collected, and, that we should there meet an escort from Madrafs,

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provided

provided with every thing necessary for us. We had not marched far, ere we found that rice alone had not a sufficient sustenance in it to support us under the fatigues of constant marching in the sun ; and, before we had completed the distance of five miles, we were all so excessively tired, that we were obliged to halt for the day. At day-light the next morning we again set out, and, ere we had effected a march of nine miles, it was five o'clock in the afternoon ; we began to despair of ever arriving at the end of our journey ; and the Bucksy told us, if we did not march farther in a day, it would be some months before we got to Ooscottah : we answered, unless he ordered us something more to eat, we did not believe

believe any of us would be ever able to get thither. On the thirtieth, we had a little recovered the use of our legs, and marched about twelve miles with greater ease than we performed the first day's march of five miles; however, it did not prevent our constant application to the Bucksy for a greater allowance. At last we obtained permission to have credit in the bazar to the amount of a pagoda each, paying at the rate of four hundred per cent. for it; with this little addition we marched on cheerfully, picking up sticks on the road, to save the expence of buying them.

ON the eighth of April, we arrived at Scerahungy, where the Bucksy told us, he expected to be

overtaken by a gentleman of very high rank in the Company's civil service at Madrafs; and the next morning, before the sick had left the ground, Mr. Sadlier and his aide camp, and ensign Fomblong arrived, the appearance of whom gave for a moment infinite pleasure; as we expected not only to be kept from starving ourselves, but to accomplish the release of the soldiers: but, how great was our surprise, when we mentioned to Mr. S—— the little debt we had contracted in the bazar! He coolly asked us how we intended to discharge it, and gave us to understand, he could not assist us; and, as we had acted so imprudently, we must get over it in the best manner we could. He was then desired to
use

use his interest with the Bucksy to get the foldiers out of irons; but the unfeeling monster answered, it was by much the best method to march them in irons, as it would prevent them from straggling, getting drunk, and deserting, though he well knew they could not stir out of the circle of the guard, nor was a drop of liquor admitted within; and it is very natural to suppose, that men who had experienced such unheard of hardships, rather than enter the service of the enemy, would not at the time they were approaching their own country, have any such ideas as those of deserting; an honest indignation must arise in the breast of every Englishman at the behaviour of this great man. Such treatment from the enemy we might have expected,

expected; but to receive it from a friend and countryman, and from a man too, who was not only an eye-witness of our distresses, but who had it in his power to alleviate them, was cruel beyond measure. Had this gentleman's humanity been as eminent as his want of it, the residue of our hardships would have been, by his means, greatly softened; but he looked on the wretchedness of the sick with an eye of indifference, and requested they would carry to the party half a dozen of wine which was all he could spare; nothing but absolute necessity induced them to accept of it, the situation of the sick not admitting of a refusal: he then wished us a pleasant march, and pursued his journey towards Bangalore.

WE

WE arrived at Ooscottah on the twelfth, having lost by death two Europeans. On our arrival, we heard of Mr. Dallas, Mr. M'Allister and cornet Leonards being there, and in the evening were visited by them. We experienced different treatment from these gentlemen, who cordially sat down on the ground with us, and with great good humour answered every little foolish question curiosity prompted us to ask. They farther told us, that they had a quantity of wine, and other articles they had brought from Madras, which should on the arrival of two other parties of prisoners be divided amongst us. The next day arrived a party, which the commissioners had picked up on their way from Mangalore, when a second happy meeting ensued; and in

in the evening we all joined lieutenant Dallas, and were delivered over to Beem Row, a Bramin appointed by the nabob to conduct us into the Carnatic, and assign us over to our friends at Vellore, agreeably to the tenor of the treaty. We now enjoyed a greater scope of liberty than we had ever done since we were captured; we were not only allowed to range the camp, but had the satisfaction to see our deserving soldiers freed from their irons. We were likewise furnished with tents, and daily supplied with provisions and liquors. This day arrived from Bangalore colonel Brathwait, and Mr. Sadlier: to the former we were much indebted for a supply of money, each officer receiving two pagodas, each sailor a pagoda and a half, and each soldier one pagoda. ON

ON the fifteenth, arrived the prisoners from Seringapatam and Bangalore. This party, notwithstanding their long confinement, were so well supplied with clothes and every other article, that they furnished the prisoners from Chittledroog with a sufficiency to cover their nakedness. The prisoners, assembled here, were in number about one hundred and eighty officers, nine hundred European foldiers, and sixteen hundred seapoys, besides some hundred servants; and, on relating to each other the hardships we had experienced, the following account was collected, viz. At Bedanore the officers left wounded, were treated much better than in any other place, having been allowed to keep their clothes, doolies, beds, chairs, tables, knives and forks, pens

pens and ink, &c. They were allowed to walk on an allotted part of the rampart, and their servants had permission to go into the bazar, and purchase whatever they chose to send for. They were attended by a French surgeon; and on their recovery were not put in irons: their daily subsistence was a seer of rice and one piee each. Ensign Manly of the Bombay establishment, who was taken in a fally at Mangalore, was sent to Bedanore, and there confined amongst the seapoys. The officers who were sent to Daurwaur (a fort near Goa) were confined with the private men, on the same allowance as we were; but they were afterwards sent to Simoga, where they were kept on a seer of rauzgy, and were ironed in such a manner, with a straight bar of iron between
their

their legs, that they could neither expand nor contract them. The officers, confined at Seringapatam, were allowed each a gold fanam per day, with liberty to purchase whatever they wanted.

THE gentlemen who were at Bangalore had the same allowance as ourselves, but they clandestinely received frequent supplies of cash from Madras, with which they had permission to purchase whatever they pleased; and latterly were allowed to visit each other in their different prisons. The private Europeans experienced different treatment in the various parts of the country they were confined in; some were used tolerably, and others shamefully ill. The seapoys in general were treated as coolies, and made to work.

FROM

FROM the prisoners at Seringapatam, we were told the nabob had forced into his service lieutenants Rutledge, Spadiman, and Clarke, and had made musketeers of them: that he had likewise detained five midshipmen of his majesty's navy, about two hundred soldiers and sailors, all the drummers and fiddlers, numbers of the women, and every other man, black or white, that was known to be an artificer. We likewise heard from different gentlemen, that the nabob, actuated by the most cruel and barbarous disposition, had, by means of poison, put to death the following officers of his majesty's service, viz. captain Campbell of the ninety-eighth regiment, captains Alston and Fish, with ensign Gifford of the hundredth regiment, at Coppuldroog, brigade general Matthews

Matthews of the Bombay establishment; at Seringapatam, of the Madras establishment, major Rumley, captain Frazer, and lieutenant Sampson; at Mysore, of the Bombay establishment, major Fewtril, captains Eames, Lendrum, Richardson, Jackson, M'Culloch, Gothlick, and Clift; lieutenants Barnwell, Young, and Oliver; Messrs. Stewart and Check, commissaries at Coppuldroog. This horrid murderer likewise assassinated lieutenant Matthews of the Bengal establishment, and lieutenant Wildon of the Bombay establishment; and had given orders for all the officers and soldiers, taken at Bedanore, to suffer the same fate, which would certainly have been executed had not the nabob heard the commissioners were on their way to treat for peace, which occasioned his

countermanding the order; but unfortunately for the above-mentioned gentlemen, his commands were obeyed ere the negative arrived, which would also have been the case at Chittledroog, had not the great distance from whence the order was sent lengthened the time.

A FEW days before the officers left Bedanore, the enemy removed from that place all the black officers belonging to the different battalions of seapoys, and they have not since been heard of; but it is natural to suppose, as every one of them refused to enter the nabob's service, that he put them to death for their fidelity, and attachment to us. Some of the seapoys who attended the dreadful ceremony of the unfortunate sufferers

sufferers told us, that general Matthews, for some days, had existed without touching the allowance generally sent him, he perceiving it to be high coloured, which gave him reason to suspect it was poisoned. He got intelligence of their intention from a seapoy, who had fed him clandestinely by lifting up a tile and through it giving him provisions. The general's living so long, without once having recourse to the poisoned food, astonished them: at length, finding he continued to exist, they bound him hand and foot, and poured the juice of the milkbush down his throat. The captains, &c. at Coppuldroog were frequently requested to enter the nabob's service; and were not only offered very high commands, but large salaries, and

every other accommodation they chose to ask; but they rejected his proposals with contempt. Exasperated at last with continual refusals, the inhuman barbarians conceived the idea, that rather than undergo the torture they would accept of any terms; they then put in execution the following infamous, and most wretched species of cruelty.

WHEN the sun was in its meridian, the prisoners were led forth in their naked state doubly ironed, and boiling oil was poured in drops over their naked bodies: this practice continued till the putrid state of their bodies was offensive; they were then relieved from this lingering situation by poison. The two gentlemen before-mentioned at Bedanore, were taken
from

from their dungeons at eleven o'clock at night, and carried into a jungul, where they were both hung in a string. The conduct of this tyrannical prince must naturally impress every British subject with a horrid idea of a despotic government, and excite in them a generous pity, if not a spirit of revenge, which is to be hoped will never be eradicated till amply satisfied.

ON the seventeenth of April, Mr. Dallas dismounted his cavalry, and supplied as many officers as possible with horses; we commenced our march from Ooscottah, escorted by a small party of the nabob's troops; and so conscious were they of the ill treatment we had received, that they left us to enter our own country at

leisure, not daring to approach within the limits. On the twenty-fifth of April, 1784, we arrived at Villore, where Mr. Dallas gave Beem Row a receipt for the prisoners the nabob had delivered up; and we were then at liberty to enjoy that freedom which is the inherent privilege of every Briton.

As the intention of this narrative is only simply to relate the excessive hardships we experienced, while in the hands of Tippou Saib Sultan Bahauder, I shall forbear mentioning the shameful treatment we met with on our arrival at Madrafs.



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